



*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.*



## **National Novel Writing Month**

### **NaNoWriMo Update!**

By: Ms. Bevas

Our seventh and eighth grade students completed the November National Novel Writing Month Challenge! The goal was to write a mini novel of 5,000-5,500 words. Students prepared for the contest throughout the month of October, then spent a little time each day in November typing and editing their work. Most students met the writing goal, while a few notable young writers surpassed the word count goal. I am very proud of our young writers and their impressive accomplishments. We will celebrate in class next week. If you see them around campus, please give them a pat on the back.

Here are some successes by the numbers:

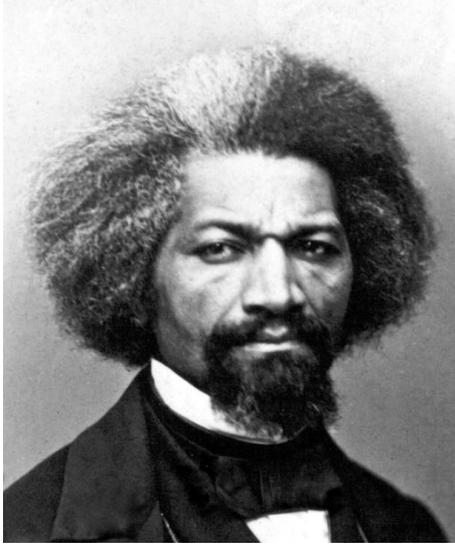
**The classroom word count goal for the entire seventh and eighth grade classes:  
138,500**

**The actual classroom total word count at the end of the competition for the entire seventh and eighth grade classes:  
148,957**

Students Who Wrote the Most Words:

Julianne Hall (Grade 7) 8,636 words  
Cevina Hwang (Grade 7) 8,400 words  
Maria Gregoire (Grade 8) 7,470 words  
Christina Kim (Grade 7) 6,160 words  
Victoria Torres (Grade 7) 6,160 words  
Johan Muusers (Grade 8) 5,861 words

When asked to express her thoughts and feelings about the competition, Julianne Hall stated "The best part of this experience was the whole idea of creating. The different characters, the fact that I could change anything I wanted, and weirdly enough the feeling that I controlled the story and everyone in it. Also I think that the 5,000 word count helped in a really good way. Even though along the way, I thought that I could never reach my goal, it pushed me and made me become a better writer."



### **Activist Spotlight: A Great Abolitionist**

By: Chloe Albuén (Grade 10)

In my American Lit class we are now reading the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. Frederick Douglass was born into slavery sometime around the year of 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. Douglass became one of the most famous intellectuals of his time, advising presidents and lecturing thousands on a range of causes, including women's rights and Irish home rule. Among Douglass's writings are several autobiographies eloquently describing his experiences in slavery and his life after the civil war. As we read the book, we learn that growing up as a slave, there wasn't any actual record of a slave's original name, birth or heritage. Douglass grew up as a slave and he was sent from plantation to plantation where he received brutal whippings and was treated really badly.

Douglass escaped about two times before he actually succeeded. He was assisted in his final attempt by Anna Murray, a free black woman in Baltimore with whom Douglass had fallen in love. On September 3, 1838, Douglass boarded a train to Havre de Grace, Maryland. Murray had provided him with some of her savings and a sailor's uniform. He carried identification papers obtained from a free black seaman. Douglass made his way to the safe house of abolitionist David Ruggles in New York in less than 24 hours.

Once Douglass learned to read, he became an avid reader, reading newspapers and political writings that would help shape his anti-slavery stance in the years to come. In addition, Douglass would use his literacy to help other slaves follow in his footsteps, teaching them to read and write at a weekly church service. These are some of Douglass's accomplishments. Frederick Douglass is really inspirational and a major figure in African-American history. He went from being a slave to being an abolitionist leader, advisor to President Lincoln, and a famous author.



### **Author Spotlight: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

By: Hyeonbin Jeong (Grade 7)

Sherlock Holmes was written by a man named *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. According to Biography.com *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* was born to a strict Irish catholic family in March 22 1859. Their family was a well respected family in the art world although his father Charles was not so much of a successful man and had only a few accomplishments to speak of His mother Mary was a well-educated woman who loved to read. Her mother love telling stories to her and he even remembered in his autobiography that his mother telling tales when he was young. At the age of nine Doyle said goodbye to their parents and left for

England to go to a preparatory school named *Hodder Place* in Stonyhurst. He was then sent to *Stonyhurst College* where he stayed there for 5 years. In his memory this school was a bad school. After that his parents thought of sending him to an art college but he persisted and went to a medical college. In medical school a man named *Professor Dr. Joseph Bell* *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's* mentor later inspired him to the fictional character Sherlock Holmes. He was also lucky because he was friends with *James Barrie* and *Robert Louis Stevenson* who were also medical students and future authors. While in medical student he also wrote a few of his stories his first one being a short story called *The Mystery of Sasassa Valley* followed by a story called *The American Tale*. During the third year of medical school he went to a whaling ship sailing for the Arctic Circle. It was at this trip that he got a sense of adventure and made his book named *Captain of the Pole Star*. Back at the university he was influenced by a Roman Catholic belief and attempted to spread his religion in forms of books. His first job was a Doctor on the steamship *Mayumba* traveling from Liverpool London to somewhere on the vast continent of Africa. When his funds nearly ran out he went back to Plymouth and settled there trying to balance out his medical career with a being an artist. After failing to balance it out he gave up on his medical career and fully devoted his life to writing about his religion. In 1885 while *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* was still struggling to make it as a writer met and married his first wife, Louisa Hawkins. They got married and had two children- a daughter and son. In 1893, Louisa Hawkins was diagnosed with tuberculosis. During the period where Louisa Hawkins was still sick he fell in love with Jean Leckie. When Louisa Hawkins died in 1906 due to tuberculosis the same year *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* got married to Jean Leckie and had three children two sons and a daughter. In 1886, Doyle started writing the mystery novel *A Tangled Skein*. Two years later, he renamed it to *A Study in Scarlet* and published in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*. *A Study in Scarlet*, it introduced Detective

Sherlock Holmes and his assistant, Watson. Finally Doyle became famous and earned the recognition he wanted. He was diagnosed with Angina Pectoris a condition that causes extreme pain to the chest and in July 7, 1930, he died in a garden.

### **Digital Photography Class News**

By: Chloe Kosack-Albuen (Grade 10)

From gorgeous and breathtaking sunsets to cool building structures, the sophomores and digital elective class of Saipan International School shares their captures to us.

Take some time to browse the many wonderful pictures our students have taken over this first semester. Please check out their website: [sisdigitalart.weebly.com](http://sisdigitalart.weebly.com)

### **Canned Food Drive**

By: Julianne Hall (Grade 7)

For the past couple of weeks, we here at SIS have been conducting can drives. First started by high school student council, so far we have received many cans from each grade. Student Council explained the basis of this drive at an assembly for middle school and high school. In the past years, SIS has held this event each year, every year being successful. This year, if we are provided with surplus amount of cans our cans will be donated to Catholic Charities USA, a non-profit organization that is working on reducing poverty. While their headquarters is in Alexandria, Virginia, they have a branch here in Saipan, Karidat Social Services that is open to all donations. Our cans will be donated to the organization where Christmas Baskets will be made then distributed to the poor. If don't have enough cans to donate, we have our fifth grade teacher, Amie McRoberts and Julie Newman who know families in need. Then, we here at SIS, will make our Christmas Baskets with the cans provided. This way, our donations will go to a good cause. All of our cans donated will be used for good purposes to help those in need and the homeless. Karidat will make Christmas Baskets using our cans, along with

other things. If we do not donate to Karidat, students at SIS will make and give out the Christmas Baskets. Either way, we are helping our community and families in need.  
Karidat Social Services  
Phone Number: 670-234- 6981



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### **Mock Trial News**

By: Roderick “RJ” Pierce (Grade 9)

A mock trial is an act or imitation trial. It is similar to a moot court, but mock trials simulate lower-court trials, while moot court simulates appellate court hearings. Attorneys preparing for a real trial might use a mock trial consisting of volunteers as role players to test theories or experiment with each other. Simply putting it, it is like a fake court case that you have to act out. Saipan International School has two mock trial teams this year- the Middle School Mock Trial Team and the High School Mock Trial Team. The mock trial cases are not as “black and white” as they are in the movies. They are really thought out, and are in the “greyish” area (no definite right nor wrong). This year’s court case is about cyber bullying and stalking, which is a major problem today. High School Mock trial is a competition, but Middle School Mock Trial is just practice (no winners or losers). In high school teams they must present both sides of the argument (defense and prosecution). Middle School only has to portray one side of the argument per team. Mock trial is helpful in developing critical thinking and argumentative skills. Mock trial is also a wonderful chance to spend time with friends.

### **Science Presentation**

By: Julianne Hall (Grade 7)

On Monday, December 12, SIS was lucky to have 2 scientists visit and talk about our oceans with our high school students and several middle school students. Our 2 visitors were Rick McPherson and Andrew Thaler, scientists that are currently in the Northern Marianas Islands studying the Marianas Trench. They talked about extraterrestrial life, the Marianas Trench, different deep-sea creatures, and we even talked about some robots! We were also told to be proud about the national monument that we have, the Marianas Trench. Rick McPherson, is a coral reef scientist who has been to different places, but it was his first time on Saipan! He talked about how extraterrestrial creatures look and that there are some creatures in the ocean that actually look like aliens. Andrew Thaler, who is a marine biologist that works for Blackbeard Biology. He talked about the different creatures in the deep sea such as creatures that live in the Marianas Trench as well. There were power points filled with colorful and bizarre pictures of these different creatures. Students even got a look at an underwater ROV, remotely operated underwater vehicle that was made by high school students in Virginia. We saw how it worked and we even got to take pictures from the camera on the ROV. After the whole presentation, our students received a greater appreciation of our Marianas Trench. Even though our island of Saipan isn’t known worldwide, our trench is. That is something to be genuinely proud of. The Marianas Islands is home to the deepest trench in the world.

## Opinion Piece: Should Talking On Hands Free Phones Be Illegal?

By: Huiwon Jeong (Grade 6)

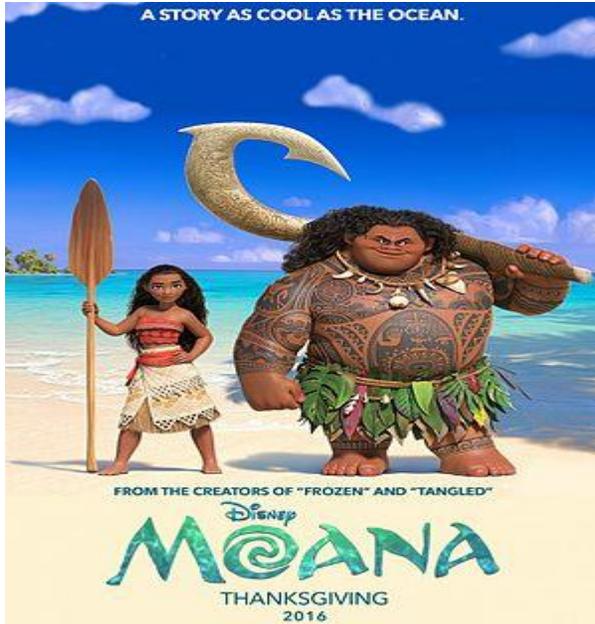
When I was younger, I heard one of my relatives had a car crash while talking on the phone and driving. At first, I didn't know it was caused by the cell phone. I thought it was just a common accident. I was curious, so I asked my dad. He said it happened because of the phone in the relative's hand. Then I thought if it should be illegal to use a cell phone without a hands free device while driving. In my opinion, yes. Here are some reasons I think that they should ban talking on the phone without a hands free device while driving. It can be dangerously distracting and can lead to a car accident. Banning cell phones can decrease the death of teenagers. Banning cell phones while driving will also decrease financial problems for poor families. It can be dangerously distracting and can lead to a car accident. Many people die because of car accidents. According to Road Crash Critics, there are an estimated 5,419,000 crashes (30,296 fatal crashes), killing 32,999 and injuring 2,239,000 per year. How many crashes per day? There are about 3,283 deaths a day. It can result in a car crash if drivers don't stop on red light and school bus' stop sign on time. This kills the victims, and sends the drivers to jail. Other people may think "The messages can be important.", but they are not as important as the victims' lives.

Banning the cell phone without hands free devices will decrease the death of teenagers. A lot of teenagers look at phones while walking on the street. When you are a teenager, you want to keep in touch with your friends and will get addicted to your cell phone, so you keep checking it. This use of cell phones without hands free devices stops them from being aware of what is happening around them and causes accidents. Other people may say: "Teenagers like to get first place, so they use their phones A LOT even on the street" but they can still get ahead of others with hands free devices. Banning cell phones while driving will decrease financial

problems for poor families. When you have a car crash you might be alive but, your cell phone might not. When we ban cell phones we can save money by not making damages in the car. When teens keep on using phones to call or text, more and more crashes will happen and you need to pay for the bills. People can think "Car crashes are one thing while phones are another." My conclusion is that we should not do phones without hands free devices while driving or walking. It is very difficult to focus on two tasks at the same time. If we use cell phones without hands free devices, it will get many people into accidents. This is why I believe the law should force people to use their phones together with hands free devices while moving.



December 15, 2016



**Moana: A Film Review**  
By: Yuri Kim (Grade 12)

Moana is the most recent Disney movie that was released on November 23, 2016, or Thanksgiving. The movie is approximately 2 hours, and I would definitely recommend that everyone watches it. It is extremely heartwarming and beautiful. Those of us living on an island are probably able to feel much more attracted to the movie as the beautiful scenery throughout the movie reminds us a lot of our home.

The two main characters, Moana and Maui, were voiced by a 16-year-old Hawaiian girl named Auli'i Carvalho and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. The 58 soundtracks are also very high quality and catchy. Some of the singers are Alessia Cara, Nicole Scherzinger, Hawaiian singers, and the actors themselves. What makes this movie stand out even more is that more than just the storyline, it teaches the culture of traditional Hawaiian and Polynesian island life while completely mesmerizing the audience. The scenery is very realistic and the colors are vivid. The colors pop and bring you directly to the place this movie was inspired by.

The story is not an average princess story where a girl is saved by a prince, but rather shows feminism and the passion a girl has for her family and nature. This young adventurous girl sets out to save her family and island with a Demi-God Maui. Many

have went back to watch the movie a second or even third time. This delightful movie will have you humming and smiling for the rest of your day for sure, no matter your age.

**Opinion Piece: The SIS Experience**

By: Jennifer Jung (Grade 9)

I have been moving schools since very young, and I can say that I am very used to making new friends and getting used to new environments. However, I can say that the older I get, it gets harder to fit into the surroundings. Now, as a 9th grader, I thought moving to Saipan would be very hard for me, because not only it is a new school, it is also a new country that I am going to, so I felt very nervous in the beginning. However later on, when the semester actually started, I realized that the life as a student in SIS might not be as bad as I thought. As I have stated before, I find it hard making new friends. However, it wasn't hard as I expected because the students were very open minded to making new friends, and the teachers encouraged the students to get to know each other. I really liked how the school made the opportunity to make new friends in the beginning of the school year, and also I am very thankful that the students here were very willing to accept me as their friend. I like the general school atmosphere, where students can freely express their thoughts and interact with one another. I feel like this school is more united than any other schools that I have went. The students from all grades communicate and spend time together. A lot of schools usually has some kind of line between each grade, which makes the student more isolated into their own grade. It decreases the chance to actually learn from older grade students, who have more experiences to guide you to the next step.

## Superstitions

By: Chloe Albuen (Grade 10)

Every culture has their superstition meaning, a belief or way of behaving that is based on fear of the unknown and faith in magic or luck: a belief that certain events or things will bring good or bad luck. Since our school community is filled with many diverse cultures. I decided to conduct some research online and write about the different superstitions that several cultures believe in.

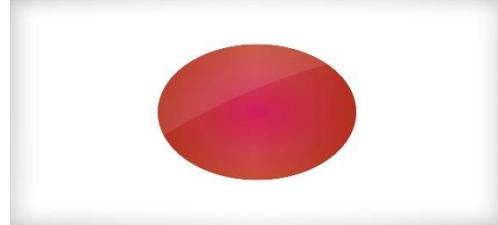


Filipinos are very superstitious people; especially the old people. They are still strongly rooted to the superstitious beliefs that they believe could help them deal with day to day occurrences and events. One of the first superstition I learned from my culture when I was little was that black ants inside the house means good luck. When black ants are parading inside the house, you should be happy because it means that there is something good brewing. It could mean money coming or a job promotion. Another belief of the Filipino culture is that they believe that when moving into a new home or place you should scatter quarters in the corner of the place. When it comes to food, Filipinos believe that eating long noodles such as their traditional pancit dish will bring you to a longer lasting life.



Don't shake your legs!  
According to one Korean superstition shaking your leg means that you are shaking of good luck and wealth. The number 4 is

said to be bad luck in Korea, and you can find many elevators in Korea with the number for replaced with the letter "F". Some Koreans believe that leaving a fan on inside a closed room while you sleep will kill you. This is one of the most well-known superstitions of Korea.



Like any other country, Japan has its own unique set of beliefs, superstitions. For example, Japanese believe that if you whistle in the night, you will be visited a ghost or snake. When you see a spider in the morning, it will bring good luck. On the other hand, it is bad luck to see a spider at night.

### Hide Your Belly Button

It's believed that Raijin, the god of thunder, lightning, and storms, would eat the bellybuttons (or entire abdomen) of children.

Never Write a Person's Name in Red Ink  
Japanese tombstones are marked with the names of family members, with names written in black and red ink. The deceased members have their names marked in red, while those who are still living will have their names written in black. Writing someone's name in red is unlucky.



## Christmas Worldwide

By: Chloe Kosack-Albuen (Grade 10)

What is Christmas and why do we celebrate it? Christmas Day falls on December 25 and

is an occasion for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Many people, even if they are not Christian, give each other gifts, prepare special meals and decorate their homes at this time of year. But do you ever wonder what it's like to celebrate Christmas from a different culture's point of view? From the different decorations each culture puts up in their house to the unique dishes that are served on Christmas Eve and day. And it may come as a surprise to some of you, but some countries out there don't even celebrate Christmas.

'Feliz Navidad' let's start of our Christmas in the beautiful country of Argentina with is located in South America. It is rather warm on Christmas in Argentina. Many people in Argentina are Catholic and they also celebrate Advent. The colors green, gold, red and white of decorations line the houses of many people. Red and white garlands are hung on the doors of houses. Christmas Trees are also very popular and they are often decorated by 8th December (the feast of the Immaculate Conception - when Catholics celebrate when Mary was conceived). The Nativity scene or 'pesebre' is also an important Christmas decoration in Argentina. The pesebre is put near to the Christmas tree. Some people like to put cotton balls on the Christmas Tree to represent snow! Any tree might be made into a Christmas Tree - not just the traditional fir tree! This is what makes Argentina very unique when it comes to celebrating Christmas. When it comes to food on Christmas day Argentinians have roasted turkey, roasted pork (in northern Argentina, some people will have goat), stuffed tomatoes, salads and Christmas bread and puddings like 'Pan Dulce' and Panetone. A Christmas Eve tradition that they do include 'globos', which are paper decorations with a light inside that float into the sky (like Chinese Lanterns). The sky is filled with them on Christmas Eve after midnight.

"Maligayang Pasko" is what to say when you're in the Philippines on Christmas. The Filipinos celebrate a long lasting Christmas.

Christmas carols in shops can start as early as September! The formal Christmas celebrations start on 16th December when many people go the first of nine pre-dawn or early morning masses. The last mass is on Christmas day. The Christmas celebrations continue to the First Sunday in January when Epiphany or the Feast of the Three Kings is celebrated. A Christmas tradition 'parol' is a bamboo pole or frame with a lighted star lantern on it. It's traditionally made from bamboo strips and colored Japanese paper or cellophane paper and represents the star that guided the Wise Men. It is the most popular Christmas decoration in the Philippines. For food the Filipinos celebrate with eating lechon (roasted pig), ham, fruit salad, rice cake and many other types of food.

"Subh krisamas" is one way to say Merry Christmas in India. Compared to other religious festivals, Christmas is quite a small festival in India, due to the number of people who are Christians (about 2.3%) compared to people who belong to other religions. Christmas tree isn't a traditional decoration for Indian on Christmas its usually a banana or mango tree that is decorated. In India, Father Christmas or Santa Claus delivers presents to children from a horse and cart.

Overall Christmas is celebrated very differently around the world. But for one thing is that this holiday brings families closer together. It is a time where families are reunited once again.

## **Christmas Break Plans**

By: Su Jin Kim (Grade 12)

SIS students' long journey is almost done, next week is Christmas break. Students will spend their time in various ways. Some of them will just relax, some will enjoy their leisure activities, some will go back to their hometown to visit family, some will prepare for their college or next semester. Here are some interviews about SIS students' break plan.

Ji Eun(7): I will stay here with my family to enjoy Saipan life, such as swimming, or water activities.

Christina(7): I am going to sleep and study for my next semester. And I want to read diverse books during the break since I have time.

Victoria(7): My dad coming for Christmas. So I'm going to spend my Christmas with my family. I want to try water sports such as scuba.

Jiye(11): I am going to go Korea to see my family. I will also prepare my college since I am senior next year. I also can see snow, which I cannot see in Saipan.

Peter(11): I'm gonna spend time with my family, chow and chill with my video games. And sleep enough for next semester.

Shea Hartig

(9): I have family coming, go around island and visit with them.

You Sun Lee

(9): I am going to Korea and travel Korea famous place with my family. I am so excited to see snow and feel winter.

RJ Pierce(9): Since my dad lives on Guam, I'm going to visit Guam and spend time with him.

### **Candy Grams**

By: John Paul Sablan (Grade 9)

Christmas is almost here and SIS's Destino Peru group is making candy grams for everyone to buy. You can get candy gram forms from members of the Destino Peru group and you can have them delivered to anyone. This also brings out the Christmas spirit of giving gifts to your loved ones and friends. It lifts people's spirits up. In every

candy gram there is a variety of candy such as mini Hershey bars or kisses, lollipops, and little heart candies. All candy grams also have cute stuffed animals like bears and penguins. They started this fundraiser to help Destino Peru kids raise funds for their trip to Peru. Whoever you buy the candy gram from, you will help lower their trip budget. There will be more fundraisers like this in the near future.



### **This Week in Sports:**

**Go Geckos!!!  
The SIS Cross Country  
team won the  
championship!**

### **Volleyball News**

By: Jon Paul Sablan (Grade 9)

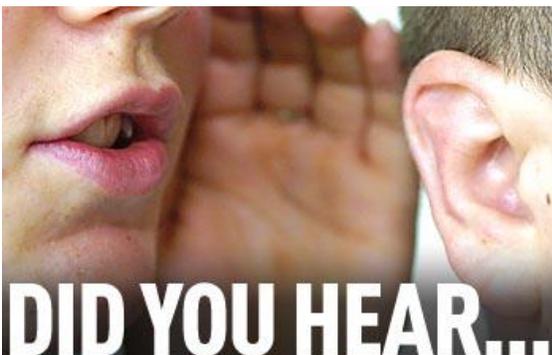
Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> Update:

This year's high school boys and girls Volleyball team was a struggle in the start of The season. The boys and girls all struggled in the skills passing and serving in the Beginning. They are working hard and getting to know in each other to improve their skills to win this year's volleyball season. They weren't as strong at first but they are slowly getting better as it is just the beginning of the season. It is still hard to tell which team will be more successful in the volleyball because it is just the beginning of the season but only time will tell which team will outshine the other. The recent boys' volleyball game ended up in a loss for SIS against AGAPE. Even though they didn't go

down easily the players aren't satisfied with this loss. Volleyball player Steven Goodwin says, "Their coach was unfair and was called bad faults." Goodwin also says, "I'm mad because I feel cheated, even though the teams performance was good I still don't think it was a fair game." The AGAPE coach was most biased towards SIS calling faults that SIS didn't do. The game was intense and tiring. The highlight of the game was in the 3rd set when it was most intense. "Everyone was screaming and shouting", Goodwin says. It was a learning experience for SIS boys as they practice hard for a win for their next game.

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Update:

SIS Volleyball Girls and Boys teams are both in the semifinals of the High school volleyball season. It is believed that the girls are in 2nd place and the boys are 3rd in their divisions. It is still unknown which team is going to challenge who but Ms. Mili says "We are ready!" Both SIS teams are nervous and excited at a winning shot to be number one. Steven Goodwin says, "The team is not as mentally ready as other teams are." The SIS teams both have their own leaders on the teams. One of them being Colin Ramsey, an experienced volleyball player participating in his last year of volleyball, he lifts up the team when needed in a game. Goodwin says, "Colin will always start the cheers and get everyone hype." With each team working hard to be number one, SIS hopes that they come out victorious.



## Heard Around Campus

By: Su Jin Kim (Grade 12)

## How is Technology Being Used in the Classroom?

**These days, technology is the most important one to maintain people's living. As technology is developing, people can achieve their needs easily, for exempt to get information, contact with others, to enjoy hobbies or other leisure activities. I was wondering how SIS students use technology effectively. Here are some interviews excerpts about how technology is used in the classroom.**

Sungjun Yoon(12): I always use my laptop to research about college and to work on the MOOCs to finish my Euromoodle assignments. Here I believe that I am using technology for my benefit because I can use my time wisely at school to finish my homework and check important emails for colleges.

Stephanie Lee(12): I need to use technology to do additional research for more information for both history and senior seminar classes. I am using technology effectively to check for extra documents and to search for colleges.

Ji Ye Lim(11): In Project X, I always use my phone or laptop to work on my plans and write my essays. It is very useful technology to do my job and research.

Shea Hartig(9): In debate, technology is used for research and to acquire pieces for the competitions.

Christine Kim(12):

The technology is used in the classroom when I am studying Spanish with Rosetta Stone. It is very useful because I can learn a foreign language following my own schedule.

December 15, 2016

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## **Calendar**

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**Have a safe and fun holiday break!**

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## **Upcoming Events**

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**December 16<sup>th</sup>-January 3rd Christmas and New Year Break-NO SCHOOL**

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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.
- To all the high school students who have helped run the snack stand during break time/recess
- To the elementary school students for their hard work creating the recycled Christmas tree decorations that are showcased on the Paseo De Marianas. Good Luck in the competition! No matter what the outcome of the competition is, you are already winners to everyone at SIS.