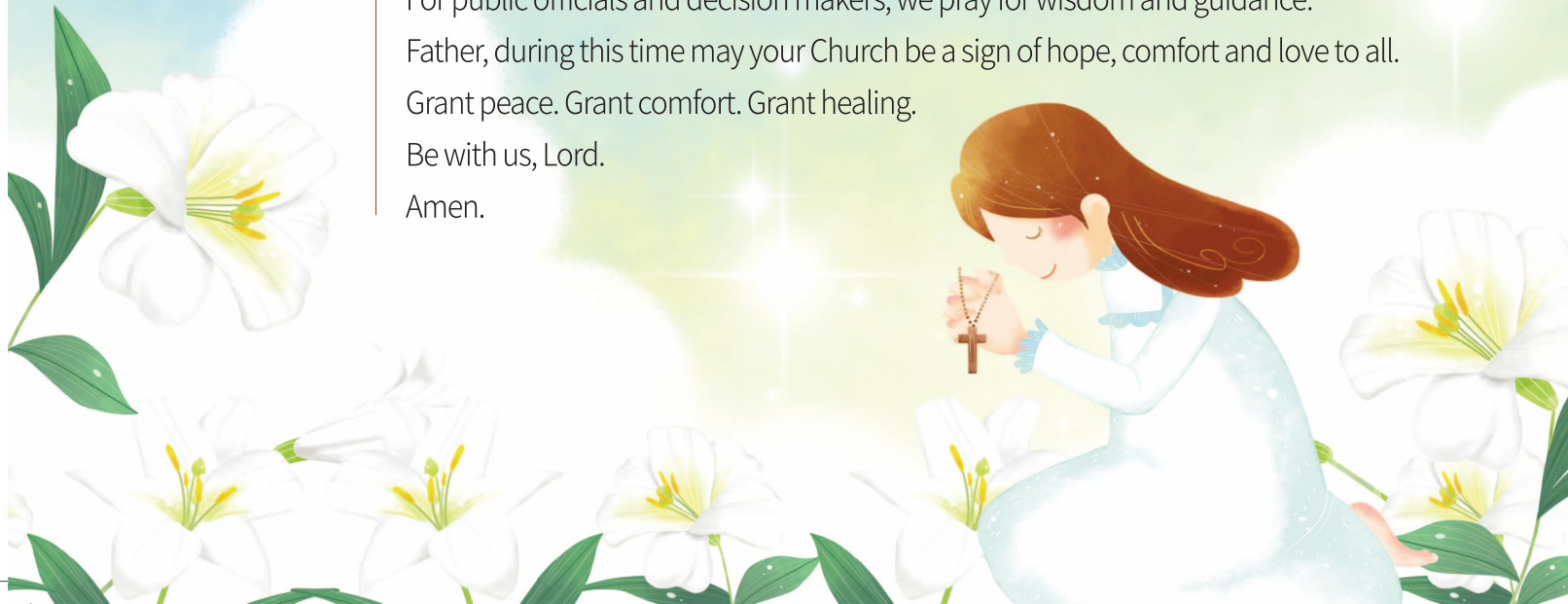


# Religion

Here is a prayer from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that we could all use during this pandemic:

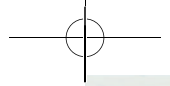
## COVID-19 Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.  
For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.  
For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.  
For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.  
For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.  
For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.  
For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.  
For public officials and decision makers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.  
Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.  
Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing.  
Be with us, Lord.  
Amen.



GYESEONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





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### Teacher's Profile

## 27 Hikes



Ellen Willson

This (last) year I turned 27 years old, and I didn't want it to be the same as every other year, so I set myself a goal. Some people told me I was crazy, but I was determined. For my 27th year, I set myself the goal of hiking 27 mountains. If you had told 10-year-old Ms. Willson that she would hike 27 mountains in a year, she would have said, "No way!"

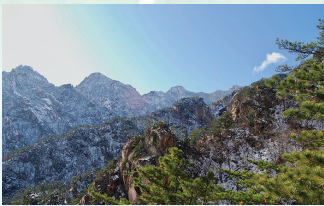
When I was in elementary school, every summer vacation my family would travel to the countryside

and go hiking, and I hated it! I always thought that walking for hours was incredibly boring, and the only thing I looked forward to were the delicious chicken and cranberry sandwiches my mum made after the hike. As I got older and went to middle school, our hiking trips were a thing of the past, and I no longer had to endure the long hours of trekking through fields.

However, now my favorite hobby is hiking. No matter the season, the views from a mountain are always spectacular: snowy peaks in winter, blossoming trees in spring, opal green landscapes in summer, and the vibrant leaves in autumn. Also, whilst hiking you can spot many animals and creatures (and some are bigger than I would like—I am talking about an eight

legged creature). Ultimately, hiking allows me to escape from all the city noise and excitement. I can just relax and take in all the natural beauty in front of me, breathing in the fresh crisp air.

For my 27th birthday, I decided to set myself a goal based on something I enjoy. Therefore, I aimed to hike 27 mountains in a year. Some weekends it was difficult to motivate myself to wake up early and go hiking, but once I began, I was always glad to be there. One week before my birthday, I hiked the last of the 27 mountains, Daedunsan. As usual, the views were breathtaking, and I felt a sense of accomplishment as I hiked down from the mountain, knowing I achieved my goal. Why don't you try setting yourself a goal for fun?



▲ Seoraksan(left and right)



▲ Inwangsan



▲ Bukhansan(left and right)



# GYESEONG TIMES

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01

## A Message from...



**Principal  
Kang, Kyung-Soo  
(Sr. Cecilia)**

### The Strength to Overcome Hardships

When in times of hardship, what kind of people do you think will be able to endure the difficult times and survive? Jim Stockdale, an officer who fought in the Vietnam War and endured years as a prisoner of war, stated in an interview that a person

who realizes that this period of hardship might last longer than predicted or considers that the situation could worsen actually has a higher chance to successfully bear the pain and overcome the ordeal compared to those who simply tell themselves that everything is going to be alright. In other words, instead of just hoping that things will get better, you need to confront the reality of your situation and look for solutions. Those who make an endless effort to find a solution are the ones that will be able to survive any hardships they might face throughout their lives.

I couldn't agree more with Jim Stockdale after experiencing the many challenges and hardships this ongoing pandemic with COVID-19 has caused us for the past two years. When I look back on how most people, including myself, put things on hold and just waited and hoped for things to get better in the year 2020, I am left with much regret. However, I am proud of how things changed the following year. In the year 2021, even though the situation with the pandemic worsened, it didn't stop us from successfully accomplishing all of our plans for the year.

I hope that through this pandemic all Gyeseong students have realized that the key to overcome any hardships is to not give up and take action. I sincerely believe and pray that all Gyeseong students will grow to be wise leaders that can adapt to their environment and circumstances and will always work hard to create a bright and hopeful future.



**Member of  
the School Committee  
Kim, Sun kyu**

### The Three Wise Men

Praise Jesus Christ!

As I see the colorful lights and Christmas trees decorating the streets, I am reminded that the season of Advent and Christmas is coming near. During this Advent pe-

riod, I hope that our students at Gyeseong Elementary School will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a calm and reverent heart.

By the way, do you know who were the people from the Far East who came to celebrate the birth of Jesus? That's right. They were the Wise Men. But do you know how many Wise Men came to Bethlehem for Jesus? The Bible only mentions that the Wise Men (also called Magi) from the Far East followed the stars to find and worship Jesus and that they also gave gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts. However, it never gives an exact number or the names of these visitors. It is actually in the 4th century that a Spanish sister named Sister Etheria mentions that there were three Wise Men in her book called *The Secret of Mary*.

For this reason, the Feast of the Magi or the Three King's Day is celebrated in Spain on January 6th every year. Families and relatives exchange gifts with each other, and children leave their shoes in front of the door to receive gifts from the Magi.

Did you know that such a story existed about the Magi? It's a fascinating story, isn't it? I hope all Gyeseong students will get to experience and enjoy the magic of Christmas with their loved ones this year! Let's celebrate the birth of baby Jesus humbly and spread joy by sharing with those who are in need. Above all, stay safe during the pandemic by wearing a mask and keeping your hands clean. Merry Christmas!





## Filled with Gratitude

**6-Gentleness**  
**Kang, Sang-hyeon's Mother**  
**Park, Hyun Ah**

Due to the chaos the pandemic has caused, these last 2 years have passed by too quickly, and I believe that many parents, including myself, have been quite anxious about their children's education during these difficult times. Nonetheless, Gyeseong Elementary School did an excellent job at creating a supportive environment and transitioning students from offline to online classes.

Have you ever wondered what the future will look like for our children? The world is changing very rapidly, and it is hard for any parent to foresee what kind of future will be awaiting our children. Different from our generation, our children are growing in a world that evolves at a rapid pace and emphasizes the importance of emotional intelligence. Culture also plays a critical role in the economy. New global companies such as Apple, Google, Tesla, and

Microsoft have also taken the lead, and our children will have to adapt to the changes these companies will cause in the world.

Luckily, Gyeseong Elementary School prepares both students and parents to consider and devise a plan regarding these issues as they start 6th grade. The school provides a guideline to help each student find their path and a way for parents to aid and assist their children in achieving their goals. In other words, the school's curriculum does not only focus on merely providing knowledge to its students, but it also puts great emphasis on the development of each student's character and emotions.

I believe that a child's primary education plays a major role in their future. Therefore, I am grateful and honored that my children have been able to start their education at Gyeseong Elementary School. After witnessing firsthand the advanced education Gyeseong Elementary School provides to its students, I have no doubt that our children will grow to shine and lead this world to an auspicious future.



## Cherishing Memories from Gyeseong

**6-Gentleness**  
**Nam, Gahyeon's Mother**  
**Kim, Kyung Yi**

"If you give birth to a horse, send it to Jeju Island. If you give birth to a child, send the child to Gyeseong Elementary School." This is a famous saying among Gyeseong parents, and as my daughter's graduation approaches, I couldn't agree more.

It feels like just yesterday when my daughter walked into the school holding my hand, her face filled with pride and excitement as she became a Gyeseong student. Now as we get closer to her graduation, we are grateful to be able to cherish so many wonderful memories that were made in this school. Starting in spring, we made special memories during the school's Father's Day event. In the summer, my daughter laughed and learned with her friends at the school's summer camp. When fall came, we enjoyed the school's flea market and admired the different

talents all Gyeseong students showed off at the school fall performances. Lastly, in the winter, the school made us move in sync with the rhythm of the school's folk music performance and orchestra concert.

They say that you forget what you heard, you remember what you saw, and you understand what you have experienced. Thanks to the many hands-on activities the school provides to the students, my daughter has learned to value the importance of cooperation, consideration for others, and humility. I am also thankful to all the teachers who have shown their constant support for my daughter. If it wasn't for their challenges, my daughter would not have learned the importance of failure. This has prepared her to fearlessly face and overcome any obstacles and hardships she might encounter in the future. I have been very pleased and proud to see my daughter progress every day during her years at Gyeseong, and I look forward to continuing to watch her grow into the strong and independent woman I believe she can become.



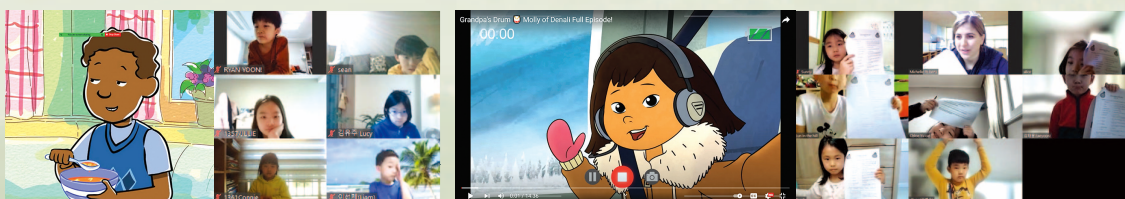
# Winter School

This year, the school provided a varied winter school program. The students who joined this 2-week online English program enriched their reading skills with a novel book, strengthened their listening and conversation skills learning from an English TV show, and had fun doing a different activity with each English teacher.

## Reading Class



## Media Class

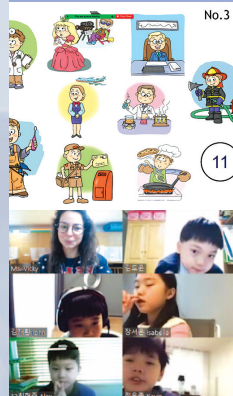


## Activity Class

### Shapes and the Body



### Spot the Differences



### International Food

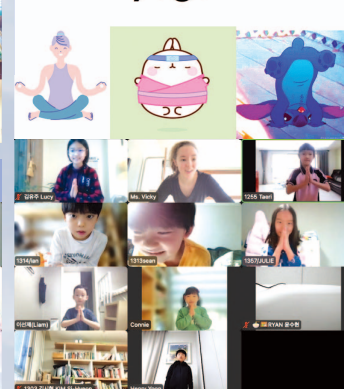


### Musical Instruments



### Health & Fitness

#### yoga





## English Olympiad :



## Public Speaking

- Q1. What topic did you choose and why?  
 Q2. How did you prepare for the competition?  
 Q3. How did you feel before, during, and after the competition?



3-Love  
Kwon, Hayoung (Ariana)

A1

I chose to talk about Audrey Hepburn because I wanted to tell everyone that I admire her and explain why I admire her.

A2

I read biographies about Audrey Hepburn and practiced my speech in front of my family every day.

A3

Before the competition, I was so nervous and worried that I would make mistakes. After the competition, I was proud of myself and felt relieved that it was over.



4-Wisdom  
Lee, Ewan (Ewan)

A1

I chose to talk about hangul because I wanted to share the importance and value of our Korean language to the English teachers and my classmates.

A2

I used an English dictionary and textbooks from school to write my script.

A3

I wasn't nervous from the start because winning wasn't important to me. I just wanted everyone to have a good time.



5-Love  
Shim, Jang-hwan (Logan)

A1

My topic was about some baseball players breaking the rules. I chose this topic because I love baseball very much, and I was disappointed when the baseball league stopped for a month because of the players who broke the rules.

A2

I prepared this speech by thinking about a topic that I love and would like to share. I also practiced memorizing the script for a long time.

A3

Before the competition, I was very nervous, but during the competition, I tried to be brave. After the competition, I knew I was the champion and was really proud.



6-Gentleness  
Nam, Gahyeon (Ruby)

A1

My topic was about what makes you beautiful. I chose this topic because I have learned by reading a book that there are different perspectives about beauty around the world, and all these perspectives are not wrong.

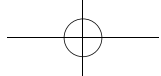
A2

I prepared for this competition by writing the script, making the board, and practicing the gestures to go with the speech after memorizing the script.

A3

I felt very nervous before the competition, and I worried about not being able to remember my script. During the competition, I tried to do my best, and after the competition, I felt confident and proud that I did well.





**Q1.** How did you prepare for the competition?

**Q2.** How did you feel before, during, and after the competition?

**Q3.** What is the one question you can remember from the competition?



# English Olympiad : Golden Bell



**3-Love**  
**Shim, Yu Hyeon (Aiden)**

**A<sub>1</sub>**

I usually read many books and used my knowledge. I also watched helpful documentaries and movies.

**A<sub>2</sub>**

Before the competition, I felt nervous and worried. During the competition, I had fun and felt excited. After the competition, I felt happy and satisfied.

**A<sub>3</sub>**

It was the last question that made me the champion: When did the Korean War start?

a) 1945 b) 1948 c) 1950  
d) 1953



**4-Wisdom**  
**Shim, Sebin (Stella)**

**A<sub>1</sub>**

I didn't prepare much. I believe reading books helped a lot.

**A<sub>2</sub>**

I didn't think I could actually win. I entered for fun, but I'm proud that I won. I think I was lucky to win. During the competition, I was really nervous, but I was relieved when I realized that most of the questions weren't that hard.

**A<sub>3</sub>**

The last question was the most memorable for me. It was a question about what language is spoken in Brazil. The answer was Portuguese.



**5-Truth**  
**Kim, Soo-Yeon (Sally)**

**A<sub>1</sub>**

I couldn't know the questions, but I read some books and watched TV shows to improve my common knowledge.

**A<sub>2</sub>**

At first, I was very nervous and worried, but during the competition, I had fun answering the questions. After the competition, I couldn't believe that I had won and was proud of myself.

**A<sub>3</sub>**

The question: When did the internet become famous to people? I remember this question because it was the question that made me the champion.



**6-Love**  
**Kim, Seo-Yoon (Vicky)**

**A<sub>1</sub>**

I read the daily newspaper and also practiced by searching the internet about something I didn't have much knowledge about.

**A<sub>2</sub>**

Actually, I thought I would not win any prizes, so I just tried my best. After the competition, I was very happy and proud of myself.

**A<sub>3</sub>**

It was the question asking where the present Pope was from because almost everyone got it wrong.

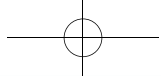


# School Fall Performances

Gyeseong students once more showed off their multiple talents at the school fall performances to celebrate the 139th school anniversary. Each grade prepared several entertaining







acts that included short plays, singing, dancing, and taekwon-do performances.



Playing music with cups is fun!



I hope all the pieces are in the right place...



Tae! Kwon!  
Do! Ah!



Dance and sing with us!



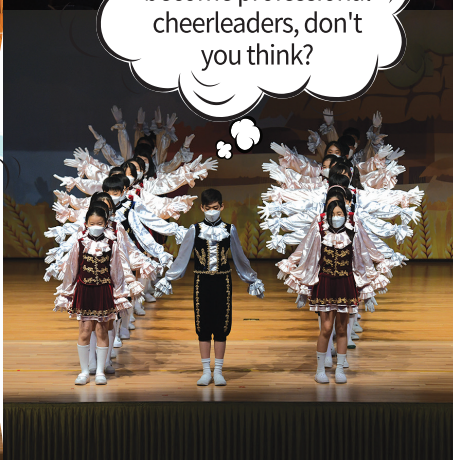
Mixing the traditional with the modern.



Ever watched the movie *Lala Land*?



We should become professional cheerleaders, don't you think?





# Folk Music Performance



**6-Truth**  
**Lim, Hee Young**  
(Amy)



## Roses Are Red, Violets Are Blue, and Poongmul Is Stunning

There are always turning points in our lives. For me, it was joining Poongmul, the school's folk music group. If there was one person who never seemed to fit the position of a leader, it was me, the quiet kid who was always at the back of the classroom reading a book. Yet, here I am, as one of the leaders of the school's proud folk music group, Poongmul. It all started when I was in 2nd grade. I remember everything about the day of the audition, from how bright the room seemed to the way the judges spoke to us. Then when the results came out, I was exhilarated to see my name on the list of students who were chosen. My first year in Poongmul as a 3rd grader went by too quickly, and so did 4th grade. Later in 5th grade, I got excited as I started to learn how to play a Korean traditional gong called Kwaenggwa-ri. Now, in 6th grade, I end my last year as a member of Poongmul at the front leading position, holding the Kwaenggwa-ri in one hand, smiling with pure happiness as I look at the new 2nd graders who have been just selected to join our music group. In a few years, one of them will become the next leader, and this tradition will continue from one generation to the other. I am proud of the achievements I have accomplished being in Poongmul and leave with nothing but absolute joy.



## How Poongmul Has Influenced My Life

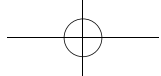
I can't believe that I will soon graduate from Gyeseong Elementary School. I will really miss all the teachers and friends I have met and everything I have done in this school. I will especially miss being in Poongmul, the school's folk music group, which has greatly influenced my life. When I was in 2nd grade, I auditioned to join Poongmul, and I luckily got chosen. This became a meaningful present to my life. Poongmul has given me many things such as confidence, courage, and passion. Also, by becoming one of the leaders of Poongmul, I obtained many hands-on experiences. This last year as a 6th grader, we participated in a folk music competition in November, and we won 1st prize. This accomplishment made me feel proud and value this music group even more. Being one of the leaders of Poongmul has helped me realize that I can become a star that shines light into the world. Therefore, I would like to sincerely thank all of the teachers and Poongmul members.



**6-Wisdom**  
**Lee, Do Youl**  
(Roy)







# Orchestra Concert



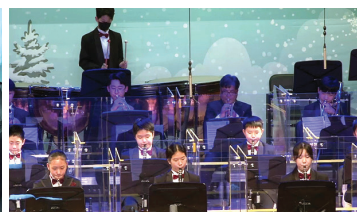
**6-Truth  
Kim, Rie  
(Rie)**

## A Rewarding Commitment: Gyeseong Orchestra

In the year 2020, the Gyeseong Orchestra was not able to perform its 30th orchestra concert because of COVID-19. As a 5th grader at that time, I prayed to God every day to end this terrible pandemic. Although the 6th graders who graduated last year were unable to perform, we all have continued to practice hard in hopes that we would be able to have our concert this year.

When I first joined the orchestra, I was really happy to hear that I would have to stay after school and practice until 4:30 every Thursday. Though it was a little tiring, I think it was rewarding because it also meant that I could make a lot of memories with my friends. However, orchestra practice wasn't always fun and full of joy. We had to take a lot of placement tests in order to change our seats based on our skills and how well we performed. If we played unsuccessfully or made a big mistake, seats were changed. This made us all be very anxious. Nonetheless, in spite of the circumstances, we continued to practice hard every day to achieve one main goal: to upgrade our musical skills. I also learned that the results are proportional to how much we practice.

I am very grateful to all the members and teachers in the orchestra for making it possible for us to give an early Christmas present to our parents: the nice concert we put together on Saturday, December 4th. I can't believe 4 years have passed so quickly; now it's time for me and my friends to graduate and say bye to the orchestra. I will always remember our great performances and the orchestra members, and I hope the members that will continue in the orchestra will also carry out another great performance next year.





## Gr. 3 Ms. Claire's Class

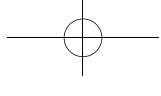


After learning about comparative and superlative adjectives, we sang a song and solved a fun quiz. First, we watched a video clip of *Mary Poppins* and listened to a wonderful song titled "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!" (It is a very long nonsense word that means "wonderful" and "amazing"! ) Then, we solved the questions using our general knowledge. We answered each question by forming a comparative and superlative sentence. It was supercalifragilistic-expialidocious!

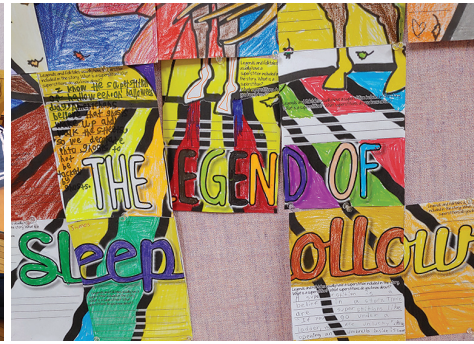
## Ms. Hannah's Class Gr. 3







## Gr.3 Mr. Ron's Class

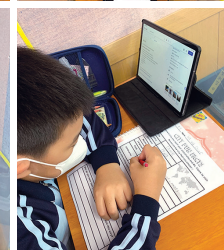
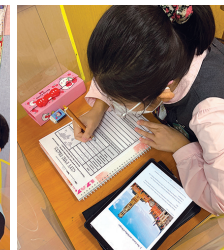


### Scary Halloween!

Halloween is a fun and spooky time for everyone, and scary stories are a big part of that. After learning about *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, a classic American ghost story, the class practiced creating and presenting scary story settings and even worked on a class poster based on the tale.



## Ms. Claire's Class Gr.4



We conducted a research using the internet this semester. First, we chose a city that we want our classmates and Ms. Claire to visit. Using the search engines, we found some interesting facts about our chosen cities and took notes in a research planner. Since there was so much information, it took a while to choose the appropriate and appealing facts. Based on our notes in our research planners, we organized our ideas and wrote a paragraph about the city by typing it on a Google doc. Thanks to this project, I learned that organizing information and finding credible sources are important. I think my research skills improved!



## Gr. 4 Ms. Hannah's Class



Students talked about various jobs. Then, they chose the one which interests them the most. Next, students did research on the job and found out about the education, work experiences, skills and talents it requires. Lastly, they made a mask poster to present their findings.

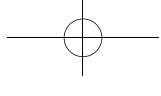
## Mr. Ron's Class Gr. 4



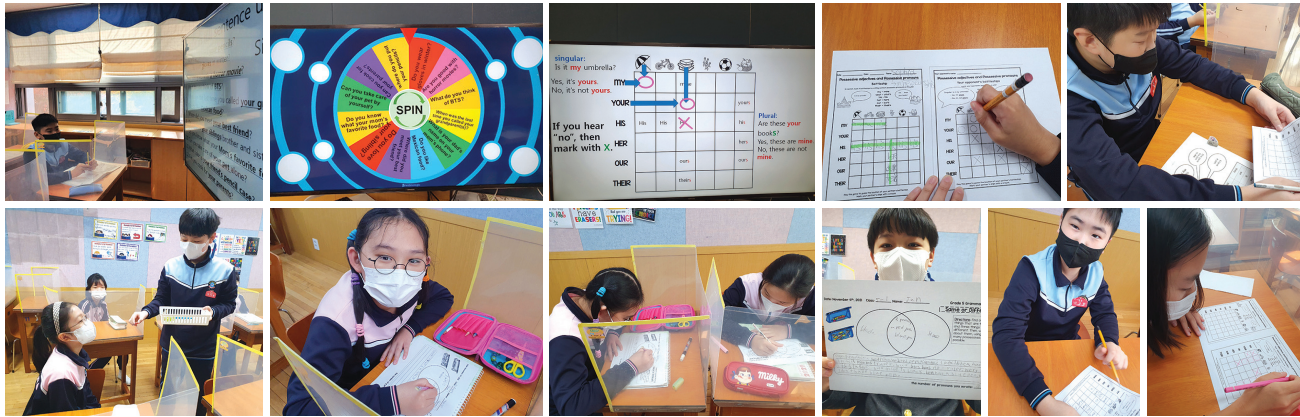
## Poetry Slam!

After learning about poetry, the use of figurative language, such as similes and metaphors, and how to express yourself, we held a poetry contest in class. Each student was able to present their very own free-form poem. Imagination ran wild, and the students were captivated by their classmates' creative verses!





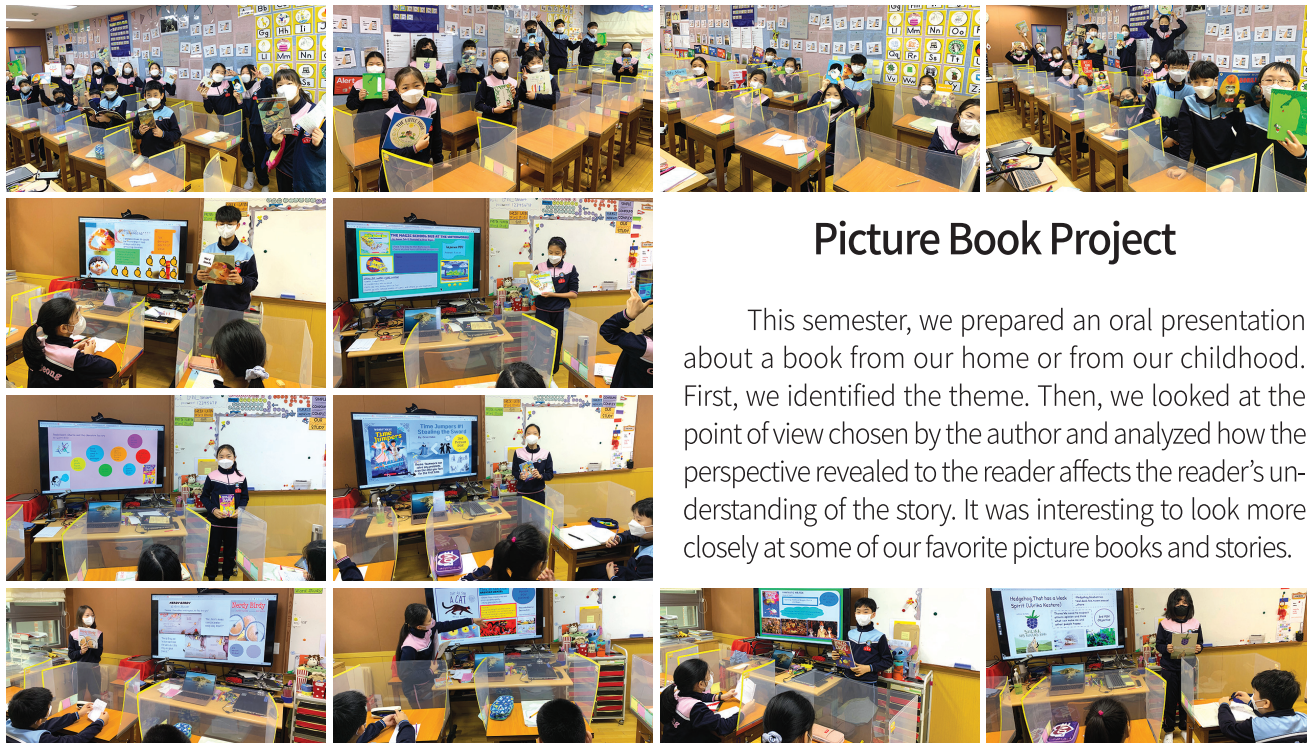
## Gr.5 Ms. Joy's Class



### Grammar Activity – Pronouns

This semester, we started our grammar class with personal pronouns. We learned about subject and object pronouns and possessive adjectives and pronouns. For the first activity, we practiced replacing nouns with subject and object pronouns as we individually answered questions within a limited amount of time. Next, we focused on using possessive adjectives and pronouns verbally as we played an exciting Battleship game against each other. During the second activity, we played a detective game to get more opportunities to use these possessive words. Then, we compared our pencil cases and wrote a short paragraph about them using as many possessives as we could.

## Ms. Leanne's Class Gr.5



### Picture Book Project

This semester, we prepared an oral presentation about a book from our home or from our childhood. First, we identified the theme. Then, we looked at the point of view chosen by the author and analyzed how the perspective revealed to the reader affects the reader's understanding of the story. It was interesting to look more closely at some of our favorite picture books and stories.



Gr. 5

## Ms. Vicky's Class



## Bird Beaks Experiment

As part of the second unit about animal adaptations, Ms. Vicky's students learned the differences between behavioral and physical adaptations. In order to help students understand the gaps between theory and practice, a bird beaks experiment in which students had to use the scientific method to draw conclusions was conducted. In this experiment, each student chose a different tool "beak" and collected as much food in their cup "stomach" as possible in 25 seconds. Once the experiment was completed, students made real-life connections by explaining which type of beak was best adapted for each type of food.

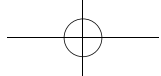


## Ms. Bak's Class Gr. 6



This semester, Ms. Bak and her students had some fun with fairy tales. Students were challenged to retell a fairy tale giving it a twist. They were put into groups, brainstormed for ideas, and wrote their own versions of their fairy tales. Later, each team made a poster to go with their stories and presented them to the class. The results were creative and entertaining.





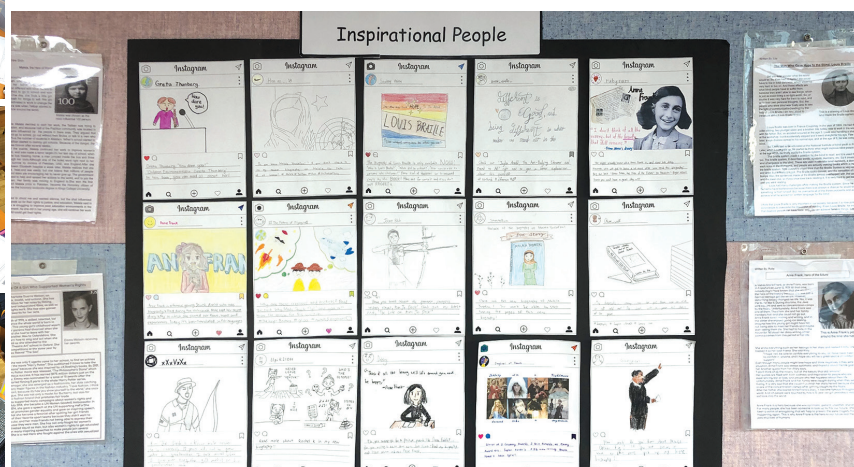
## Gr.6 Ms. Michelle's Class



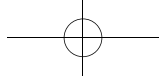
For our second semester speaking presentation, we focused on our skills and talents. Students thought of their own skills, talents, or qualities they have that are helpful, useful, or important to themselves or others. We created a body outline filled with all our talents, skills, or qualities, and students then presented their completed posters to the class to show and explain their many talents and qualities. It was wonderful seeing students expressing self-confidence as they shared their skills with the class!

## Ms. Willson's Class Gr.6

Students explored the genre of narrative nonfiction this semester, specifically biographies. As a class, we discussed the biographies we read and connected those stories to the unit topic of inspirations. As part of a project, students completed a research hunt on young inspirational people and chose a person they would like to write about. After further research and completing their biographies, students created an Instagram advertisement for the release of their biographies.







# 04

## Student Writing

### Ms. Claire's Best 3rd Grade Writing

3-Truth  
Jang, Hajun  
(Hajun)



#### My Best Friend, Lily



Getting a puppy was the most amazing thing that happened in my life this year. I always wished to have a pet. I finally got my puppy after wishing for it for 3 years. The reason I bought a puppy is because I was getting lonely and bored since I have no brothers or sisters.

My puppy is a Bichon Frise. She was only 3 months old when I first met her. She was only a handful and her nose and eyes were smaller than a button. I named her Lily since her fur was as white as the flower.

Lily, my puppy, makes me stay vibrant even though we are in the middle of COVID-19. She is the source of energy to my family. Before Lily came into my life, I used to have a headache

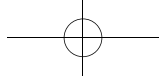
frequently. I think this was because I had a lot of homework to complete. Now, however, playing with Lily makes me forget about stress and cheers me up. I try to finish my homework as fast as I can and look forward to playing with her.

Lily also taught me the value of friendship. Some friends are rude, but Lily is always loyal and friendly to me. For example, she always comes to the door and wags her tail when I return home, and she is always friendly.

These days I no longer wish having a brother or sister because I have Lily. Lily is extremely special to my family, and I will always take good care of her.







## Ms. Hannah's Best 3rd Grade Writing

3-Gentleness  
Kang, Si Woo  
(Ray)

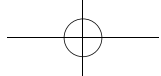


### My Skills and Talents

I am special and unique because I have many talents and skills. I am good at helping my friends. I know I am good at this because when I help my friends, I feel proud of myself. I have also been doing a lot of things as the class leader this year. I always try to respect and care about others. I will be a great class leader again next year as a fourth grader. I am also good at origami. I can especially make tops very well. I know I am good at origami because many people say my work is great and nice. I have been giving my artwork to my friends as gifts. I practice origami to make cool things because I want to share the cool pieces with my friends. Lastly, I am good at baduk. I know I am good at this because I am in the advanced class at my baduk academy. I have been winning in baduk competitions, too. I practice baduk very hard, so I will win the next baduk competition again. These are my skills and talents among many other things that make me special and unique. I also think everyone is special in their own ways.







# 04

## Student Writing

### Mr. Ron's Best 3rd Grade Writing

3-Truth  
Kwon, YiShin  
(Dan)



## A Letter to a Friend

Dear Kevin,

Hello, Kevin! I heard you will visit Korea during summer vacation. I was so happy to hear that! I've already planned our summer vacation.

First, we will drive to the Byeonsan Peninsula. It will take four hours, so we will watch a movie in the car. When we arrive there, we will visit the Chaeseokgang Cliffs. There are many famous unicorn-shaped rocks and sea caves. We can also take pictures of dinosaur footprints and beautiful sunsets. The next day we will go to the Gomso Salt Pond and discover the process of how salt is made.

Second, we will visit Jeju Island by airplane. On Jeju Island, we will visit Seongsan Ilchulbong which is a tuff cone. It is a UNESCO National Heritage

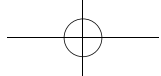
Site. You can see volcano craters at the top. Even though it is a small mountain, you must wear good running shoes and prepare lots of cold water. In the afternoon, we will visit Udo Island by ship. It is a small island, yet it is really beautiful. There, we will enjoy snorkeling and swimming. We can catch many small fish and crabs with our nets. This will be the best thing I would like to do with you!

If you come to Korea, we will have a lot of fun together! I'm looking forward to seeing you here in my country. After having fun during the day, we will play with toys and Nintendo every night. Goodbye and see you soon!

Your friend,  
Dan







## Ms. Claire's Best 4th Grade Writing

4-Gentleness  
Nam, Young Jae  
(Daniel)



### My Trip to Nairobi

I went to Nairobi, Kenya when I was seven years old. It was really hot because it is located in Africa. Swahili and English are the official languages of Nairobi. "Jambo" means "hi" in Swahili.

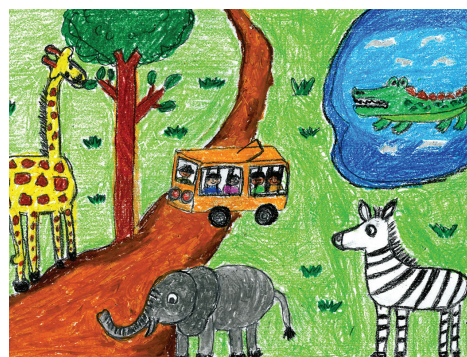
Some of the popular foods in this city are ugali, chapati, and nyama choma. I would like you to try ugali because it is the staple food of Kenya. Like we eat rice, Nairobi people eat ugali every day. It is made from corn powder and the texture is like rice cake. It is cheap, easy to make, and makes us full. When I went to Nairobi, I tried it and it was so delicious. I loved it! Therefore, if you visit Nairobi, you should try it!

The top famous landmarks in this city are Maasai Market, Nairobi National Park, Snake House, Bomas of Kenya, and the Giraffe Center. First, Maasai Market is regularly held twice a week. Thousands of products, including animal sculptures and handicrafts, are interesting to see.

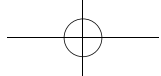
Second, Nairobi National Park is a national park that is located right in the middle of the city. It was established in 1946 to protect the local wild animals. Lions, leopards, hippos, rhinos, and other wild animals live in the park. The landscape is beautiful and worth visiting. Third, the Snake House is actually inside the Nairobi National Museum. It's a deep pond with snakes, turtles, and lizards. When I looked down into the pond, I felt like a snake was going to jump out and bite me. However, the snakes did not come out. I think this interesting feeling makes people visit this place. Fourth, Bomas of Kenya is a tourist village. It displays traditional villages belonging to several Kenyan tribes. As soon as I entered here, I thought it was the same place as the Ko-

rean folk village. Last, the Giraffe Center is located in Langata, which is the suburb of Nairobi. However, it is worth visiting. The main attraction for visitors is feeding the giraffes. However, I was scared because there were too many giraffes and they were too tall. I gave up on feeding them and just watched them from far away. I should have tried feeding them. I regret that now.

I would like you to visit the city of Nairobi because there are many exotic and interesting things to do. I recommend you to drive in a safari car. You will be able to see wild animals such as elephants, lions, giraffes, and zebras in a wide meadow. I think Nairobi is the best place to watch wild animals roaming free in nature.







# 04

## Student Writing



### My Dream Job

My dream job is becoming an endocrinologist. An endocrinologist is a doctor who treats abnormal hormones. Through this research I learned how to become an endocrinologist and the skills and talents an endocrinologist needs to have.

Endocrinology is the medicine that treats abnormal hormones. Our body contains many organs, and they need to function well. For example, when we see delicious food, our body will secrete appetite control hormones. There are many other types of hormones, such as male hormones, female hormones, stress hormones and more.

I have wanted to become an endocrinologist since I was very young. I want to work with my dad who is an endocrinologist. He mainly has interest in the pituitary, thyroid, pancreas and

suprarenal glands. He treats patients with diabetes, hypertension and thyroid diseases. I want to be just like my dad and treat and cure patients with him when I grow up.

In order to fulfill my dream, I need to become a physician to be an endocrinologist. I need to study medicine in college so I can become a doctor. To get into medical school, the competition is high, so I have to study very hard. Then, once I get into college, I have to study for 6 years to become a doctor. There are many medical subjects to study, such as anatomy, biochemistry, histology, pathology, physiology and many more. In addition, I need to study internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology. The next step to becoming a doctor is obtaining a doctor's certificate. It is important for medical students to take and pass the exam and acquire the doctor's certificate because that's what will make them an official doctor. However, this is not the last step. I still have a long way to go. The following step is to do an internship at a hospital. Being an intern is about learning how to treat patients and getting to know the atmosphere of a hospital. After I successfully finish my internship, I need to decide my medical specialty. Then, I start my residency, which lasts 4 years, and I need to focus on the medical field of my choice. Finally, I need to take a specialty exam so I can be a

## Ms. Hannah's Best 4th Grade Writing

4-Love  
Kim, Tae-Ho  
(Benjamin)

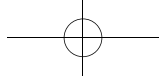


medical specialist.

However, it requires some additional skills and talents to become a good endocrinologist. First of all, I need to manage my time very well. When I become a doctor, my schedule will be very tight, so I must manage my time very wisely. Second, I must be very meticulous. When I treat a patient and if I forget even one thing, my patient's health could be in danger. Third, I must be very diligent. If I go to work early, I can check my patients' charts and be ready when they come to see me. Most importantly, I must have a caring heart for the sick. When someone is ill, both the mind and body are in pain. Not only medicine but also kind words from a doctor could ease and cure the pain.

In conclusion, I want to become an endocrinologist to work with my dad. Based on what I learned from my research, I will have to focus my studies on anatomy, biochemistry, histology, pathology and physiology among other subjects at a medical school. I will be a meticulous and diligent doctor who speaks kind words to patients and manages time well.





## Mr. Ron's Best 4th Grade Writing

4-Wisdom  
Lee, Juwon  
(Aiden)



### A Letter to Grandpa

Dear Grandpa,

How are you? I want to tell you how thankful I am that you gave me the Time Specs: 3000. Last week, my class went on a field trip to the Natural History Museum. Thinking that I could see the real bones of real dinosaurs, I got really thrilled!

After passing several sections, we arrived at the Jurassic period display. I was astonished at the real figure of the Tyrannosaurus rex. The T-Rex has been my favorite creature for a long time, so I put on the Time Specs: 3000.

I could not believe the scene in front of me! There was suddenly a Triceratops eating grass! I was a bit scared when it approached me. But I really wanted to be its friend. So, I shared some snacks out of my bag with it. It lifted me up on its back and gave me a ride over the prairies. The view was so beautiful!

Suddenly, I heard a huge thump behind my back. There was the Tyrannosaurus rex coming toward me! I was so scared so I closed my eyes. I suddenly felt as if I was flying in the sky. When I opened my eyes, I was on

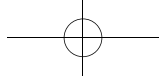
a Pterodactyl, a large flying dinosaur! It saved my life.

When I finally took the Time Specs: 3000 off, we were all standing there just looking at a picture of Jurassic Park. I could see many dinosaurs, but I saw the Stegosaurus among the others. It definitely looked much cooler and nicer to me than the Tyrannosaurus rex!

Sincerely,  
Aiden







# 04

## Student Writing

### Ms. Joy's Best 5th Grade Writing

5-Love  
Kim, Minsol  
(Minsol)



## Minjeong Choi, the Ardent Skater of the 2018 Winter Olympics

The speed skater Minjeong Choi gave her greatest performance in the 2018 Winter Olympics. Watching her race made me become more interested in speed skating, and now I want to be a great speed skater like her. As a future speed skater, I admire Choi very much. There are several reasons why she is my role model.

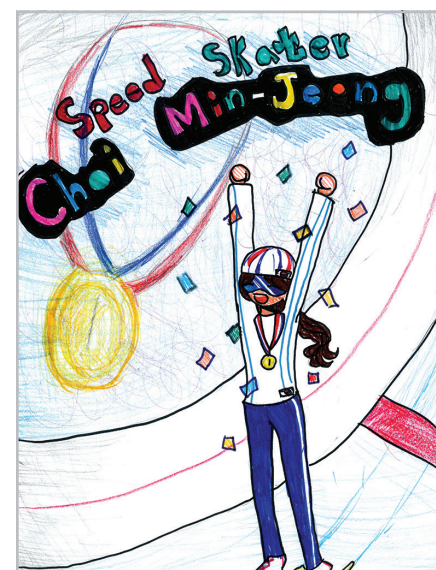
First, I Googled her and found out that she is quite famous for her hard work. She never got tired of intensive training. Although she was born to be a great speed skater, she never stopped training. Reading about her made me practice skating more eagerly.

Also, she is physically strong and has enduring power. A long race never wears her out. This made her become one of the greatest skaters in Korea. At the 2018 Winter Olympics, she won two gold medals in the 1500-meter race and the 3000-meter relay. Ever since I learned more about her, I have tried to train harder to gain the strength she has.

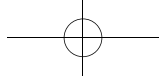
Finally, she does not know how to give up. Nothing could have stopped

her from getting the medal. Even in the chaotic final race, she never lost focus. In the 3000-meter relay, she overcame the Canadian and Chinese skaters' interferences. I think their foul play was terribly serious, but she coped with the situation enormously well.

For these reasons, I respect Minjeong Choi very much, and I believe she will make new records in the next Winter Olympics. Many skaters put in a lot of effort, but Choi will forever remain as the best speed skater in my heart. I hope to see Choi at the next Winter Olympics.







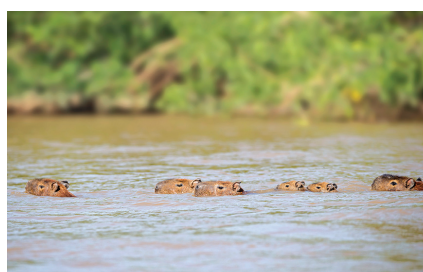
## The Reason for an Unbalanced Ecosystem

Various species can be transported to different areas from their original habitat. Whether accidentally or on purpose, they have both positive and negative impacts on our lives. Non-native species are usually introduced in an attempt to balance the food chain or for economic purposes. However, some of these species cause unexpected problems like overpopulation or even the extinction of other species. Therefore, we should ban the influx of non-native species because of the health, environmental, and economic problems they could cause.

First of all, non-native species can carry germs or diseases that can cause health problems among native species. According to the article “Invasive Species” published by *The National Wildlife Federation*, approximately 42% of threatened or endangered species are at risk due to invasive spe-

cies. For example, Dutch elm disease spread among trees in America after European elm bark beetles arrived and spread a fatal fungus. Since then, over half of the elm trees have died! For this reason, non-native species shouldn't be brought to a new habitat because of the diseases they could spread.

Additionally, non-native species may become so invasive that there could be a problem with infestation, and this causes environmental problems. As stated in the article “Don't eat nutrias: ministry” from *The Korea Times*, “nutrias, an invasive species in Korea, overpopulated because they did not have predators to tolerate their rapid growth speed, even to the point where they began destroying the food chain” (Kim). The article “Bullfrog Breaks Korea's Ecological System... NIER” from *The Korea Bizwire* states that bullfrogs are another invasive species in Korea, and their large diet of native insects has negatively impacted Korea's original ecosystem (Huh). Because of the deadly damage they could cause, non-native species should not be introduced into new



## Ms. Leanne's Best 5th Grade Writing

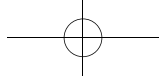
5-Truth Moon, Seoyeon (Emily)



ecosystems.

Lastly, money that could be used for other services could be wasted on driving out invasive species. According to *WTTW News*, “the cost of a long-awaited plan to prevent invasive Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes has more than doubled to \$778 million,” and the money spent on getting rid of them increases as they reproduce rapidly (Ruppenthal). Such unnecessary costs to restore a damaged environment by non-native species can be reduced and prevented if these non-native species are banned.

In conclusion, we should not bring in non-native species because they can have a negative impact on native species' health, the environment, and the economy. Sometimes non-native species arrive on accident and can benefit us. However, non-native species' potential to better our environment or society doesn't take away the risk of them becoming invasive and destructive. Therefore, we should do our best to restore our environment naturally and prevent non-native species from affecting it negatively.



# 04

## Student Writing

### Ms. Vicky's Best 5th Grade Writing

5-Love  
Cha, Yehong  
(Yehong)



#### Let's Go to Vietnam

It's vacation time! If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Have you ever considered going to Vietnam? Vietnam is a very beautiful country located in Southeast Asia which has a unique culture that attracts millions of tourists every year. In my opinion, Vietnam is the perfect holiday destination because the country has a lot to offer such as delicious food, breathtaking scenery, and interesting historical sites.

First, traditional Vietnamese cuisine is healthy and flavorful, so if you go to Vietnam, you can eat delicious food. Among many others, Vietnamese noodles and banh mi are the most famous dishes. They are so popular that even Koreans are familiar with them. Vietnamese noodles, called Pho, are made of rice noodles, beef broth, meat, and vegetables. Banh mi is a Vietnamese sandwich that has a Euro-

pean taste because France ruled Vietnam for a long time. Banh mi's bread is similar to the French baguette which makes this Asian bread as deliciously crispy as European bread.

Second, you can go to different tourist destinations in Vietnam and enjoy its beautiful landscape. For example, Ha Long Bay is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it is located in the Gulf of Tonkin in the northeast region of Vietnam. This natural wonder is 165 km away from the capital city of Hanoi, Vietnam. The best part is that you can go on a cruise and eat delicious seafood while exploring Ha Long Bay's scenic limestone islands and caves.

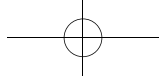
Last, if you are interested in history, you will find what you are looking for in Vietnam. A long time ago, Vietnam was colonized and ruled by other powerful countries. The country was also involved in various wars such as the Vietnam War which took place in the 1960s between Vietnam and the U.S.A. Unfortunately, this tragic war cost many people's lives. If you want to learn more about how Vietnamese soldiers protected themselves during

the war, you can now visit the Cu Chi Tunnels in Ho Chi Minh. I believe that visiting such historical sites can teach us that love and peace are needed at all times.

In conclusion, Vietnam is a wonderful holiday destination because it has lots of delicious food, beautiful places to take pictures, and many historical sites. Let's spread the word about Vietnam! People should visit this vibrant country!







## Ms. Bak's Best 6th Grade Writing



### Snow White and the Seven Dwarf Potion-Makers

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Snow White. Snow White's mother passed away when Snow White was very young, so the king married a new wife. The new queen was beautiful and very nice to Snow White. She loved Snow White heartedly and always gave good food and nice clothes to her. Snow White also liked her stepmother.

The queen had a magic mirror that could always tell who was the fairest person in the kingdom. The queen asked the same question to the mirror every day, "Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" And the mirror would always answer that the queen was the fairest of all. However, one day, when the queen

asked the same question to the mirror, the mirror on the wall said that Snow White was the fairest of them all. The queen was surprised but glad that her stepdaughter was the fairest of them all. So, the queen called an oriental medicine doctor for Snow White and ordered him to give nutritious food to Snow White so she could preserve her beauty and stay healthy.

The first food that the doctor gave her was ginseng. The ginseng made Snow White even more beautiful and healthier. A few days later, the doctor gave her caviar, and Snow White continued to grow prettier. A few weeks later, the queen ordered the doctor to find a type of nutritious food that was even rarer than the ones Snow White had been eating so far. So, the doctor found a very special mushroom in the forest, and without realizing that it was poisoned, he took the mushroom to the castle for Snow White.

After Snow White ate the poisonous mushroom, she became ugly and she wasn't healthy at all. Snow White got sicker and sicker day after day. The

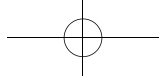
queen tried to cure Snow White but nothing helped. Then, one day she heard about seven special dwarfs who lived in the forest and were known for their unique and magical potions. The queen immediately sent someone to the forest to fetch the seven dwarf potion-makers.

When the seven dwarfs arrived, the queen explained what had happened to Snow White and begged them to make a potion that would make Snow White beautiful and healthy again. The dwarfs agreed to help and gathered their ingredients: a frog's eyeball, a dragon's egg, pig's poop, milk, salt, sugar, and one living mouse. Finally, the potion was made and when Snow White took the medicine, she became pretty again. Snow White was happy to be pretty again.

Snow White was very thankful to the seven dwarfs, so she asked the queen and king if the dwarfs could live with them in their castle. The queen and the king agreed to her request. So, the seven dwarfs moved into the castle, and they all lived together happily ever after.

6-Wisdom  
Kim, Daon (Daon)  
Pyo, Geon-Woo (Daniel)





# 04

## Student Writing

### Ms. Michelle's Best 6th Grade Writing



6-Love  
Lee, Seung-Bin  
(Kate)



## My Favorite Holiday

My favorite holiday is Christmas, Jesus's birthday. I like Christmas because I can get gifts and spend time with my family.

For Christmas, we decorate a Christmas tree. My family decorates a medium-sized Christmas tree. I want to decorate a big Christmas tree, but my mom says no. I really want to buy a big tree and try it this Christmas!

My family enjoys decorating the Christmas tree and having a party on Christmas Eve. Some traditional Christmas foods are Christmas cakes, pumpkin pie, parsnip soup, stir-fried ham and mini cabbage, hazelnut cookies, and

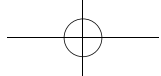
cranberry pudding. But my family usually eats pasta! The pasta my dad makes is really delicious.

When I wake up on Christmas Day, I find a present in the living room! After opening presents, another thing I like to do during Christmas is to watch a movie. I usually watch *Home Alone* a lot. I think I've watched it every Christmas. One more thing I enjoy doing this time of the year is listening to carols. I like to listen to the song "Merry Christmas Advance" by the singer named IU.

This is why my favorite holiday is Christmas. Spending time with your family is a very precious time.







## The Man Who Gave Hope to the Blind, Louis Braille

Did you ever wonder what the world would be like with no lights? To live in almost complete darkness would be very difficult. This situation is similar to the life of blind people who are unable to see or can see very little. Reading, something that many people enjoy to do, was impossible for blind people. However, Louis Braille found a way to allow blind people to enjoy reading. Read on to find out more about the man who gave hope to the blind.

Louis Braille was born in Coupvray, France in 1809. He had three older siblings, two sisters and a brother. From a young age, as soon as he could walk, Louis Braille enjoyed spending time with his father in his workshop.

Unfortunately, when Louis Braille was just three years old, an accident occurred in the workshop. Whilst he was handling a sharp object, it slipped and went through his eye. The wound became infected, and a few years later, the infection spread to his other eye. By the age of five, he was completely blind.

Louis was a smart boy and be-

cause of his intelligence, he was educated at the National Institute of Blind Youth in Paris, one of the first schools for the blind in the world. As Louis grew up, he started to think of ways to improve his life and the life of other blind people. At the age of 15, he invented the braille system.

The braille system, which was invented in the 1800s and is still used today, has made reading possible for the blind. Braille can be seen in our everyday lives. For example, in elevators the buttons also have braille so blind people can know which number to press, and in museums braille is used to describe the relics. Furthermore, it is possible to buy books in braille, even novels such as the Harry Potter series. People may think that braille is very easy to read and write, but it is not. Braille is complex and it feels bumpy to the touch. Reading braille is difficult because the sentences are written close together, so if you lose track whilst reading, it is very difficult to find your spot again.

Louis had many challenges while making the braille system. Since he was blind, using machinery that punched holes could be very dangerous. He needed to be fearless to work with the tools he needed. Alongside other difficulties he may have had, he overcame all those obstacles and was able to achieve what he wished for, a written language for the blind.

## Ms. Willson's Best 6th Grade Writing

6-Wisdom  
Han, Woo Jin  
(Loy)



Louis Braille has greatly influenced our society. Thanks to him, now it is possible for blind people to read and do regular daily activities, such as use an elevator or visit a museum. Louis Braille also continues to inspire others with disabilities to dream of achieving great things. He is a great person who has given hope and light to the blind.

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## Congratulations, 6th Grade!

### Dear Graduates of 2021,

We truly congratulate you for successfully completing your primary education, and we most sincerely wish all of you the best of luck! Here is a quote that will hopefully inspire and motivate you to get through any hardships you might encounter throughout the next chapters of your life:



*"Despite difficulties, always keep optimism. 'I can overcome these difficulties.' That mental attitude itself will bring inner strength and self-confidence."*

- Dalai Lama

## Teacher Greetings



Joy Hwang

### Good-Bye, Ms. Joy!

The past couple of years have just flown by with the chaos caused by the pandemic. After all the ups and downs, I have grown so attached to the students and the staff that it is hard to say goodbye. It truly has been a great honor to teach at Gyeseong. Looking back on these last two years, I am amazed by how much I have learned and grown as a teacher. You all made it possible. I would like to thank the teachers for their genuine support and the students for their kindness and enthusiasm. I will miss every moment we shared together. Farewell and I wish you all the best of luck.



Hannah Jung

### Good-Bye, Ms. Hannah!

I am sad to say good-bye to everyone at Gyeseong Elementary School. I have enjoyed nine wonderful years teaching and learning with such courteous, diligent and smart students. Also, I would like to thank all my competent and dedicated coworkers. I feel so blessed to have had the chance to work and get to know all of you. You all will be missed. Thank you for everything.



Claire Ahn

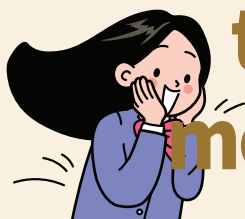
### Good-Bye, Ms. Claire!

I am thankful for having had the chance to teach the amazing students and work with the wonderful teachers here at Gyeseong Elementary School for seven years. I will miss you all. Take care and wish you all the best!





# Advice Column: I feel nervous and/or scared before giving a speech or taking a test. What can I do to feel more confident and relaxed?

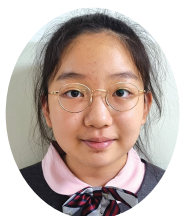


**3-Love / Shin, Yu Hyeon**

To be confident, you have to keep trying things that will give you experiences. Don't be despaired because you failed to bring the desired result that you wanted. You just have to do your best. And to be more comfortable, you have to take a big breath three times. Now are you ready for your speech or test? I hope my tips help you!

**4-Gentleness / Hwang, Jiwon (Chloe)**

First of all, it is very natural to be nervous before giving a presentation in front of a large number of people or before taking an important exam. My strategy is to practice numerous times in advance. When you have a presentation, you could also practice by recording yourself. This will be of great help because it will give you the chance to see and find out what you are doing wrong and fix it. You also can practice with your family or friends who can advise you truthfully on how to improve for your presentation or exam.



**5-Gentleness / Kim, Ka-Bin (Anna)**

In my opinion, the most important thing you can do is to be prepared as much as possible. If it is a test, study. If it is a speech, practice. Do everything you can do to be well prepared. Then, be physically ready for the event. Have a good night's sleep and eat well. Doing that will help you think clearly. Lastly, be positive. Having a positive mindset will help boost your confidence and performance. Good luck!

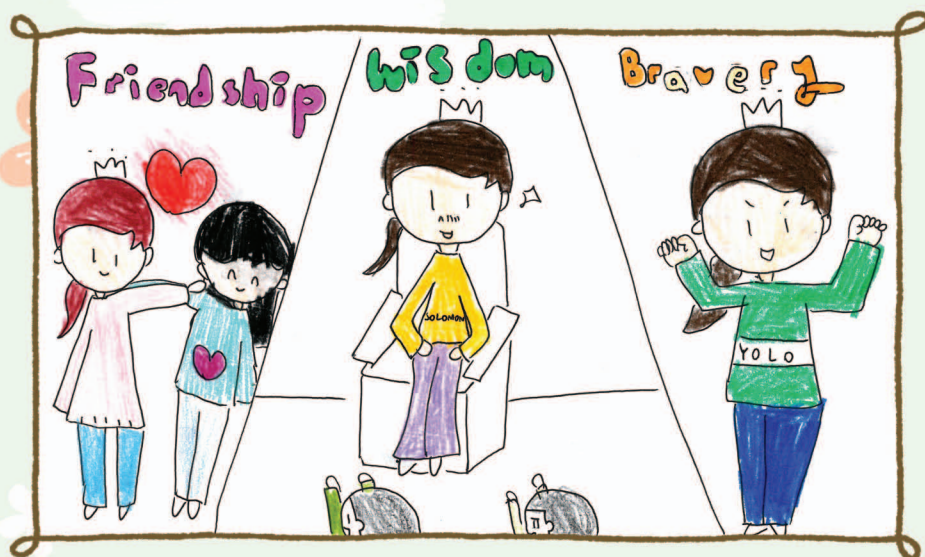
**6-Truth / Park, Seo-Jeong (Erin)**

When I took my midterm tests a few weeks ago, I was really worried about making a mistake even though I had studied hard. So, my mother gave me a cross necklace and told me that God would protect and guide me. And I really felt like he was with me. Of course, you won't get a good score just by having a cross necklace with you, you need to put in the work. But the belief that God will help me made me feel a bit calmer. Why don't you keep a cross necklace like me?



## Express Your Thoughts:

Inspired by the upcoming presidential election, the *Gyeseong Times* thought it would be a good chance to consider what makes a good leader. Here is what the students had to say about leadership.



**3-Truth**  
Ahn, Eun Jae (Grace)  
Cho, Eun woo (Pia)

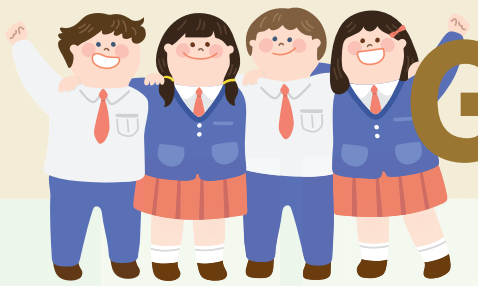
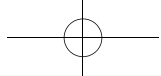
A leader should have 3 qualities: wisdom, friendship, and bravery. First, wisdom helps us get through challenges. Second, we should have friendship because a kind friend can comfort you. Third, we need bravery to stand up for ourselves. With these three qualities, I think anybody could be a great leader.



**4-Wisdom**  
Kim, So-eun (Lily)

I think a good leader should be kind to team members. A kind leader listens to others' opinions with an open mind. Also, a leader encourages team members with kindness. Above all, a leader with kindness does not judge others and tries to support everyone's ideas.





# What Makes a Good Leader?



**4-Gentleness**  
Yim, You Sun (Sunny)  
Hwang, Jiwon (Chloe)

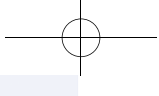


A good leader is honest and positive. He/She should listen to other people's opinions and have the strength to take initiatives. A good leader does not give orders. Instead, he/she cooperates and joins tasks. A good leader has the responsibility to take care of people and fulfill the promises he/she makes.



**5-Truth**  
Moon, Seoyeon (Emily)

I believe a true leader is one who tries their best to bring everyone together to cooperate for the community. Instead of focusing on making themselves shine, a good leader volunteers to help people in need and unites the people in the community regardless of their gender, race, and religion.



*"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."*

Philippians 2:3-4

06

Entertainment

## Survey: Leadership

This semester, the *Gyeseong Times* put a lot of focus on leadership due to the upcoming presidential election. From the many qualities that were mentioned, we wanted to know which two were considered the most important by our Gyeseong students. Here are the results!



**What TWO qualities do you think a leader must have?**

