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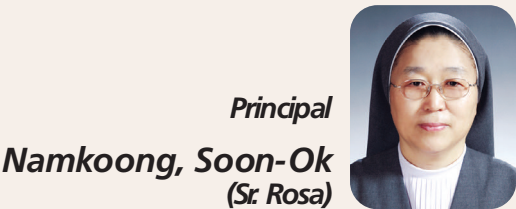
Experience Is Knowledge, Experience Is Wisdom

One day when I was in college, I was studying the book of Genesis with a fellow sister. There was a verse that drew my attention:

"God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. [...]"
Genesis 1:31

It states how God felt after seeing what he had created. It was then when I started to wonder about the world, the creation of God. I wanted to be able to see and experience the magnificence of his creation. Hence, I started a prayer asking God to grant me the opportunity to learn and be able to admire the many different parts of the world he had created; and he granted me that wish.

Ever since I started that prayer, I have been able to visit many countries and have been amazed by the beauty and uniqueness of each place. Some places impressed me the most because of the rich culture they contained. Other places such as Venice simply proved that this world could have only been created by the hands of God — all the beauty and splendor they possess could have not originated from humankind.



Principal
Namkoong, Soon-Ok
(Sr. Rosa)

Traveling to all these different countries has made me witness God's greatness once again; he has done so much for us. It has also allowed me to rediscover the charm of our kind, our humanity, and broaden my perspective of the world.

Here is a quote I heard from a tour guide I met in Venice, Italy, and would much like to share it with you:

"There are many ways to live. If the world is stronger than you, the world will change you. If you are stronger than the world, you can change the world. Try to meet more people, and try to see and experience the bigger world."

세상을 살아 가는데 살아갈 방법은 다 있다. 세상이 강하면 세상이 너를 변화 시킬 것이고, 네가 강하면 네가 세상을 변화시킬 수 있다. 사람을 만나되 한 사람이라도 더 만나고, 세상을 다녀도 한 뼘이라도 더 보고 경험을 더 많이 하도록 하라.

– Kublai Khan Quote (Emperor of Yuan Dynasty)

Dear Gyeseong students! I hope this quote will inspire you to aspire for a more dynamic life and challenge you to explore and acquire diverse experiences, which will enrich your life and strengthen you to achieve any goals you set for yourself throughout your life.

Our Family and Alma Mater

Class of 1985
Choi, Yong-Seok



The very first choice for all Korean parents, as their children grow, is to enroll their children in good private elementary schools. Every family might have its own personal reasons, but in general, the most common reason to this would be the fact that all parents wish to send their children to a school with good teachers and facilities and a strong and effective curriculum. Therefore, thanks to the endless love I received while attending Gyeseong Elementary School for 30 years ago and the wonderful memories I got to treasure from that love, I had automatically discarded any other school options and determined Gyeseong Elementary School to be the school my children should attend in the future.

My son and daughter, currently in 5th and 1st grade respectively, have become the 6th and 7th Gyeseong alumni in our family. Even though the students at Gyeseong are selected purely by luck at the school lottery rather than according to their competence and skills, it is still a very fulfilling and proud experience, which has allowed the whole family to look forward to sharing stories about the school and teachers during the big family gatherings in the holidays.

In Gyeseong, there are lots of other families just

like mine, in which both the parents and children might be part of what I like to call the "Gyeseong family." As a result, we always run into our seniors or ex-classmates whenever we assist to the various school events; it is as if we were all part of a big family, the Gyeseong family. We all share a special bond, and therefore, being part of this family is very meaningful to me, and I am sure that it is to many others as well.

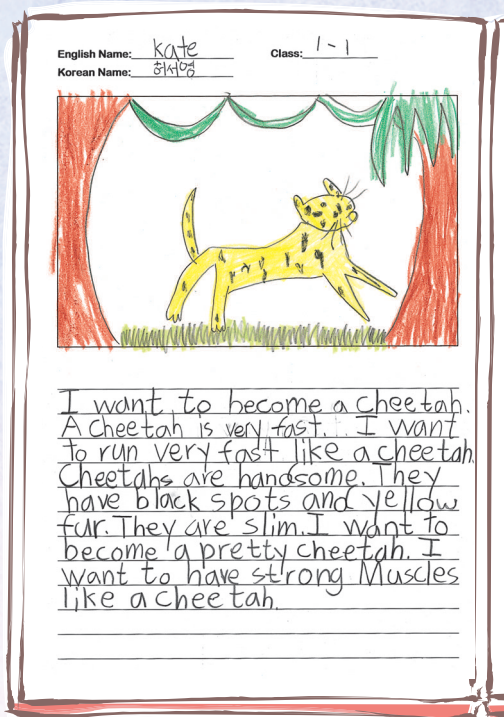
Additionally, the bigger happiness of being part of the Gyeseong family is that my family has become a holy family. As my family and I prepared for the baptism of my son, the rest of my family, including myself, got baptized, and hence, we are now able to experience the joy of attending mass at church together every Sunday. This is another big happiness Gyeseong has guided our family to.

Therefore, I sincerely thank God and Mother Mary and the Principal, Vice Principal, and my former teachers at Gyeseong for all the good memories I guard in my heart and for giving me this honorable opportunity to make a contribution and share them with the rest of the Gyeseong community. I will always have all of you in my prayers, wishing you good health and happiness.

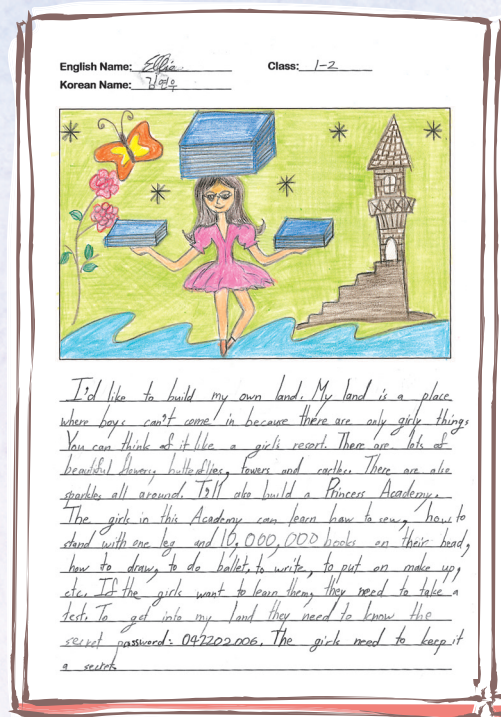


GYESEONG STAR ●●

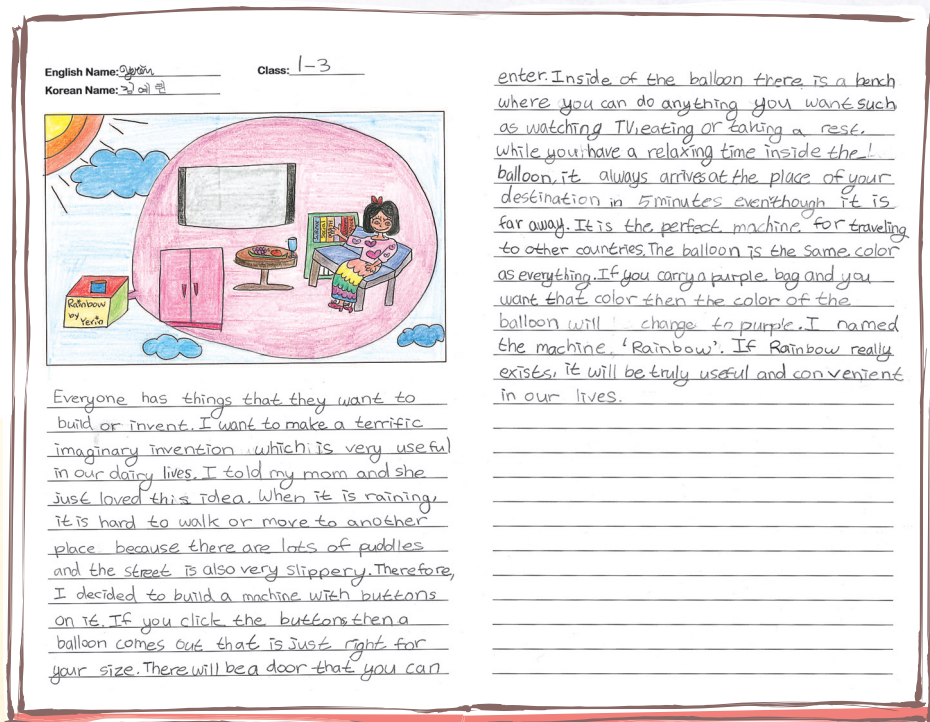
Grade 1&2 Creative Writing



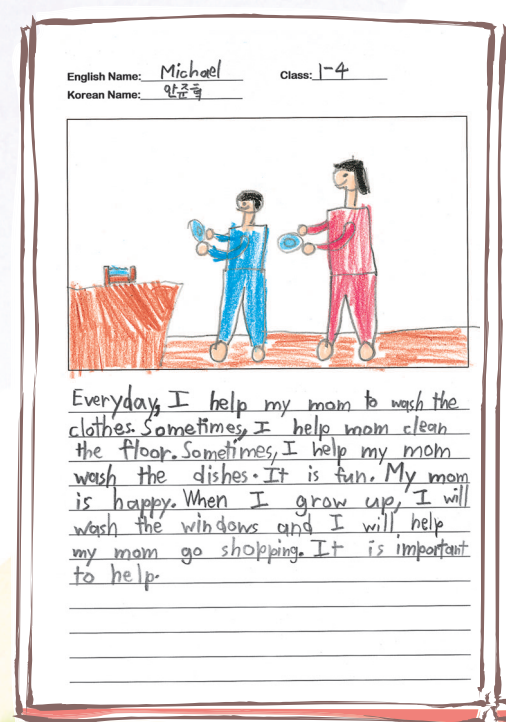
1-Wisdom
Huh, Seo-Young
(Kate)



1-Gentleness
Kim, Yeon-Woo
(Ellie)




1-Love
Kim, Yae-Rin
(Yerin)



1-Truth
Ahn, Joon-Hyuk
(Michael)

Grade 1&2 Creative Writing

English Name: Joshua
Korean Name: 박지웅
Class: 2-1, green

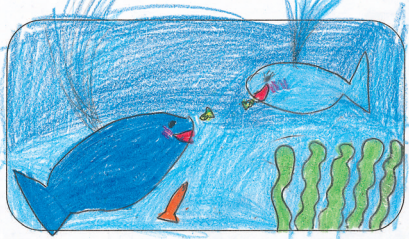


For Children's Day, I went to Seoul N Tower. I rode a Cable Car and arrived at Seoul N Tower. I took an express elevator and went to the observatory. It took only 20 seconds to approach to 236m. I listened to the audio guide and learned all about Seoul city. I ate dinner in a sky lounge of a skyline view. I looked down at the city nightscape and it was so beautiful. When I went down, the speed was faster than it took only 25 seconds. Parents, thank you for helping me see a fantastic nightscape.



2-Wisdom
Park, Jae-Hyung
(Joshua)

NAME: Tiffany
DATE: 2019. 7. 15
TOPIC: how animals survive in nature.

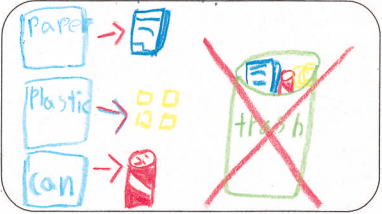


Whales eat small fish or small shrimps. Whales are big but whales eat tiny fish. Whales size is 17 ft. Some people eat Whales too. Whales live in big sea. Whales sleep and drink water. Sometimes whales spray water with back. Whales like cold water. Whales are good at swimming so whales live good. I want to see real whale. It is so mesty to me. I will go to big sea and see whale. And I really want to see how can whales live good!



2-Gentleness
Lee, Joo-Yeon
(Tiffany)

NAME: Floria
DATE: 6/18
TOPIC: why do you think recycling is important?




Recycling is very important because it's one way to protect the earth. There are three examples about recycling. First, we recycle paper. we can protect trees. If we don't protect trees, air will be bad so animals and plants are hard to live. Next, we recycle plastic. Plastic doesn't rot so if we don't recycle it, some animals might eat it and die. Last, we recycle cans. If we recycle it, we can make more new cans. I wish people would recycle and make earth safe.



2-Love
Kim, Shi-Uhn
(Floria)

Grade & Class: 2-4
English Name: Sally
Korean Name: 장소연

Title: My favorite movie



My favorite movie is Jack the Giant killer, because movie was fun. The giants look down for the giant's crown. If one person get a crown, giants look down for him or her. Two head giant is king, but bad person get crown. "I catch the princess," said Giant 1. Then Jack go to princess. Jack go to princess, but Giant in the kitchen. Jack kill Giant. Jack save princess. Jack down to home with princess.



2-Truth
Jung, So-Yoon
(Sally)



GYESEONG STAR ●●

Grade 3 Creative Writing

Children's Day

3-Wisdom **Jang, Min-Seo** (Ella)

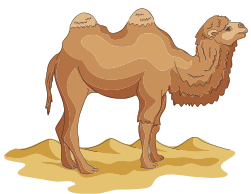


Children's Day is my favorite holiday. It's for children so it's our day. We don't study on Children's Day; we can play all day long. On Children's Day, I get presents from Mom and Dad. They usually give me lots of toys and accessories. I usually go to the Ritz Carlton Hotel this special day. I watch a magic show and have a nice dinner. This year, I already got Children's Day presents. Yesterday, we moved to a new house. I got a pretty new room with purple wallpaper. I got my own bed, too. I always get many presents so I love Children's Day!



How Camels Survive in the Desert

3-Wisdom **Park, Jin** (Jin)



Camels have humps on their backs. The dromedary camel has only one hump and lives in the Middle East while the Bactrian camels have 2 humps and live in Central Asia. Camels don't directly store water. They concentrate body fat in their humps so that they can survive in a hot climate. Camels can withstand long periods of time without any external source of water. Also, camels are able to withstand changes in body temperature. During the summer, the camel's coat becomes lighter in color helping avoid sunburn. Their long legs help by keeping them further from the hot ground. Camels adapt to the hot climates to provide milk, meat, and fur and are used as a form of transportation.

My Favorite Insect

3-Wisdom **Lee, Jung-Jin** (Jason)



My favorite insect is the dragonfly because it is strong and it can fly. I think the dragonfly is like a dragon. It looks like a pair of wings and eyes have been attached to a hot pepper. The dragonfly can fly in the sky. It lives in the country, and the dragonfly eats small insects. I like the dragonfly. In the countryside I can easily catch dragonflies. Last summer vacation, my father and I caught many dragonflies. Then, we released them because we couldn't take them with us back to the city.



Penguin Class

3-Gentleness **Lee, Jin-Woo** (Erica)



It was class picture day. Everyone was wearing their best clothes. Stephan wore a tie, black pants, a white shirt and a black jacket. It was called a tuxedo. When Stephan came inside the class, everyone laughed at him. Stephan was so embarrassed. Stephan is a little penguin who goes to Animal School. Stephan's best friend Todd asked him "What are those pants for? Are they good for sitting?" "No," Stephan said, "I'm not supposed to sit," "Then what are they for?" asked Todd. "They are for standing around and looking important," answered Stephan. Todd was wearing a cowboy shirt and hat and shorts. Just then Deedee walked in and asked, "Stephan, is that shirt good for swimming?" "No, I cannot swim with this shirt and pants on," answered Stephan. Then, Ms. Liz, the teacher said, "I hope Stephan's clothes are good for other things." Deedee was wearing a black shirt with a golden heart that said "Love Goddess." Ms. Liz was wearing a Hawaiian Hoola shirt. The two twins, Camile and Chenile, came to Stephan and asked, "Then what is the tie for? Does it hold your shirt up?" "No, it chokes me!" said Stephan. "The more it chokes me, the more important I look. Try it," said Stephan. They pulled his tie very tight, and it tore. "Oh no, you tore it! Now, I won't look important anymore!" Stephan said. That is when Ms. Liz told the class, "It doesn't matter what you look like on the outside. The inside is the real part." "The inside?" asked Stephan. "Yes, if you want to be great and important, you have to wear expensive underwear!" said Ms. Liz.



The School Library Events

3-Gentleness **Nam, Do-Hun** (Andrew)



I like to go to my school's library. There is a library in my school, and it's on the 3rd floor. It's on the same floor as my classroom so it's easier for me to go to the library.

My school library has many events. We have a reading crossword puzzle, jigsaw puzzle, and dart game event. Every month there is a reading crossword puzzle event. The questions of the puzzle are about the books in the library. We have a week to finish the puzzle. Almost every student joins this event. Students who are picked get a DVD coupon as a prize. Thanks to the event, students enjoy going to the library.

Grade 3 Creative Writing

Farming Together

3-Love Suh, Jung-In (Sally)



My family works together in many ways. For example, there is preparing a meal and farming among many other family tasks. I'm going to tell you about the way we farm together. We discuss and determine which vegetables we want to plant. We raise cucumbers, green peppers, eggplants, peanuts, and sweet potatoes every year. My dad makes holes with a hoe. Then, I put a seedling in the hole. Dad covers the seedling roots with soil in the hole. My sister pets the soil with her hands. After that, my mom waters the seedling. A few months later, the plants give us fruit. My sister and I pick the cucumbers, green peppers, and eggplants. This is the most fun part for all of us. In fall, we can dig up sweet potatoes and peanuts. My sister and I dig them up, and my parents carry them to the car. Farming together is fun!

The Tiger

3-Love Kim, Seo-Jung (Seo-Jung)



The tiger has black stripes on its dark yellow and orange body fur. It lives in the deep forest. The tiger eats many animals like rabbits, zebras, hens, and birds. I don't like tigers. They could eat me! But I like baby tigers because they are cute.



How to Help Mom and Dad at Home

3-Love Ham, Ju-Won (Ju-Won)



Sometimes I help Mom when she is cooking. I like to cook and taste food. Sometimes when my brother and I help Mom, we clean up our toys and books, so the living room looks clean. Also, I take care of my brother when Mom is working in the kitchen.



How My Family Works Together

3-Truth Shin, Yae-Rin (Kate)



Mom cooks for me and my family. My sister and I set the table. My father works hard to make money. My family also works hard to clean the house. Mom cleans the refrigerator, bathrooms, and kitchen. My dad does the dishes and cleans his room. My younger sister cleans the three balconies. I clean the entrance, living room, and bedroom. I like to help doing chores because it makes my house much cleaner. It also makes my family friendlier. So, my family is happy to do chores together, and so am I!!



A New Activity

3-Truth Park, Soo-Yeon (Claire)



One activity I always wanted to do is snowboarding. Can you imagine flying in the air, jumping and sliding? There is nothing else I want to do more than snowboarding. But the biggest reason why I can't snowboard is because I might get hurt. My mom is afraid I will fall or lose my balance and break a bone. I agree with my mom, but no matter how dangerous it is, I still want to try it. I could wear a hundred helmets and 40 pads to be safe and try it. If I don't do things because it is risky, I'll never be able to do anything hard. So, if I am able to snowboard, I would feel cool and proud of myself. The feeling you get with the wind going by when you go down the slope would be like a dream come true.

My Hobbies

3-Truth Jo, Yoon-Seo (Amy)



I have three hobbies that I like to do. My first hobby is to play the violin. I cannot play the violin very well. But when I play the violin, I enjoy it much. Sometimes I play the violin for my family. My second hobby is jumping rope. My mom always tells me that jumping rope will help me be taller. So when I have free time, usually I jump rope. My last hobby is doing origami. My sister and I can fold paper into the shape of a crane well. Also, I can fold paper into the shape of a heart. These three things are my favorite things to do.





Grade 4 Creative Writing

You Must Marry Someday

4-Wisdom **Lee, Doo-Young** (Tim)



My belief is that every Korean person must marry and have a baby. We live here today because our parents were married and had us. Many young people don't marry and live alone now. My uncle is 38 years old, but he isn't married and has no girlfriend. The population of Korea will decrease in the future and the power of Korea will become weaker.

The population of powerful nations is high. For example, China has 1,000,000,000 people, USA has 300,000,000 people, Japan has 150,000,000 people, South Korea has 50,000,000 people.

We could become an advanced country with excellent man-power with a higher population. Married couples must have babies, and the government must help them raise their children by offering some kind of financial support.

I will have three babies and raise them very well.

My First Trip to Jeju Island with My Classmates

4-Wisdom **Kim, Min-Suk** (Raphael)



On the 24th of April, my classmates and I got on a Korean Air flight to go to Jeju Island. I got very excited since it was my very first trip with my friends. When we got to Jeju, we ate many delicious foods that are famous on the island such as black pork, black bean paste noodles, and braised mackerel. There were many beautiful places that are popular for sightseeing. Out of all the places I visited in Jeju, I enjoyed Butterfly World and the Glass Castle the most. The Glass Castle is a castle made from used glass. This is what got my attention the most. Also, since it is very difficult to see any butterflies in Seoul, it was great to see many various kinds of butterflies at Butterfly World. I wanted to catch a few of them and take them back home with me.

I enjoyed this trip, and I think it was better because I was with my friends. I hope to go on another trip with my friends to Jeju or to any other fun and beautiful place again.



The Giving Tree

4-Wisdom **Park, Seo-Won** (Lisa)



I read a famous book called *The Giving Tree*. The book is about a tree, which loves a boy unconditionally. Despite how much the tree loved the boy, the boy never gave anything back. Whenever the boy needed something, the tree offered everything it had to the boy from its own leaves, branches, and trunk to apples. The tree gave everything to the boy but asked nothing in return.

If I were the tree, I would have told the boy to work hard and earn what he needed on his own. I think I am just like the boy with my parents. Whenever I had to do my homework or prepare for school, my parents always helped me. Even when it came to eating breakfast before going to school, my mom would chase me around to help me eat it. After reading this book, I decided that from now on, I will try to do things on my own more and become more independent and be a good daughter.



If I Am an Astronaut

4-Gentleness **Yang, Joon-Seo** (Kenneth)



When I become an astronaut, I will go to

Saturn. Saturn is my favorite planet because it has rings and stripes.

When I get there, I will collect some rocks and give them to scientists and astronomers to study

them. I will search if there are some living creatures or aliens. I will also take some pictures of the surface of Saturn and the rocks and dust that makes up the rings of Saturn.

After visiting Saturn, I will go near the sun. I will feel the heat of it and watch carefully how the sun burns. I also want to go to the moon. I will step on its surface. I think being an astronaut is a cool job, and I hope I can go to space someday.



A Report on Stars

4-Gentleness **Yoo, Joon-Sang** (Steven)



After reading "The Moon" from Treasures, I wanted to learn more about stars. From my research, I looked up when stars are born or die. Also, I found out that stars are one billion times brighter than the sun. The dead stars reform into black holes or neutron stars. The

Grade 4 Creative Writing



star lights that we can see now could be the light of the stars which were destroyed before several million years. Because we live so far away from the stars, I always wonder how it is possible to even see the stars and their light shine so brightly. Space is full of mysteries, and I would like to find out more about it.

The Earth

4-Love Jang, Jae-Ho (Jack)



The planet we live in is called Earth. It is one of the nine planets that revolve around the sun. Earth is the third planet from the sun. It has the most suitable temperature for living things to dwell in. Also, it has water and oxygen so it can sustain lives. It takes about 24 hours for Earth to spin all the way around. This is why we have day and night. It takes Earth about 365 days to revolve around the sun. We call this time period a year. There are many interesting facts about Earth, but one thing for sure is that we need to keep it clean and protect it as much as we can as it is the only planet we can live in.



Flowering Plants: A Poem

4-Love Cha, Suh-Hyun (Kristine)



Today, I want to introduce which poem is my favorite and why I think it is special. The poem is called "Flowering Plants" by Tae-Ju Na . It goes like this:

It's beautiful when you see it in detail.
It's lovely when you look at it a long time.
Just like you.

I think this poem is a great poem. It means that we are like a small flower at first, but when you look at it closely for a long time, you see many things. It's beautiful. The part "Just like you" makes me emotional. I heard this poem for the first time while I was watching a drama that I like. In that drama, the main character read this same poem, and I felt that I was getting sad. I became emotional. Since then I have liked this poem.

I think this poem makes people emotional because it



has a kind of power in its words. The words are not many but strong. It can give us many different feelings. I think that is what makes this poem special.

My Language Log

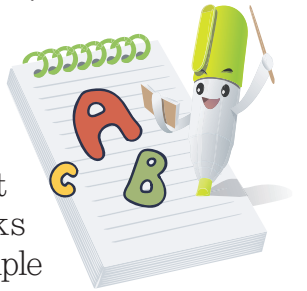
4-Truth Suh, Joon-Young (Jerry)



My English teacher told us to write something called a "language log" every day. A language log is a personal log of all the language and cultural related things we learn. He said a dutiful foreign language student actively keeps track of the things that they learn and the things that they don't know yet.

In my language log, I wrote about what I learned, discovered, realized, wondered, still want to know, and still don't understand. For example, I realized that reading is very important for me. So I decided to read books steadily from now on. Another example is that I learned that there are fun ways to learn, too. I was able to improve my vocabulary skills working with crossword puzzles. I also wrote about things I don't know or understand. For example, I wanted to know about the word "novella." According to the dictionary, a novella is a short novel or a long short story. I still don't understand what this means. So, I asked my mom and she said it is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.

At first, when I started writing in my language log, I thought it was boring, but now I think it is helpful for learning English. I want to continue to write in my language log as I grow older. I think it is a good habit.



If I Were the President

4-Truth Hwang, Jae-Yoon (Tiffany)



If I were the president, I would govern a nation very well. Also, I would listen to the people's opinion so the people would be content. I would also invite poor children to the Blue House to play, or I would give presents to poor children. Then they would be happy. Also, I would make my country safer for the people and keep my country safe from enemies. In addition, I would call athletes to ask about their condition before going on to the Olympic Games. If some people have problems, I would solve those problems. I think a president's duty is difficult, but I think being the president would be wonderful!





Grade 5 Creative Writing

My Favorite Trip

5-Wisdom **Moon, Kyeong-Eun** (Rozina)



I went to the Philippines last summer. I stayed there for a week. Unfortunately, when I was in the Philippines, it rained a lot. However, it didn't stop me from swimming every day. I swam in the rain. The water was warm, and I felt free. The sound of the rain was actually fantastic. I will never forget the sound and feeling I had while swimming in the rain. Another wonderful



thing that I remember from this trip is that my hotel had a great sauna facility in the backyard. Whenever I woke up in the morning, I started my day swimming. Then I went to the sauna. It was great. I like to take a hot shower after a cold bath. I wish to go there during the rainy season again and enjoy all of this again!

My Greatest Fear or Phobia

5-Wisdom **Lee, Seung-Bin** (Lyn)



Most people have a small fear of something, or a phobia. Of course, I have one too. Actually, I have two, and today I would like to talk about these two things that I fear.

I fear monsters or ghosts, but I like to listen to ghost stories because I am mostly afraid of the ghosts that I can see. Sometimes I like to share ghost stories that I know, but I still get a little scared. I really dislike ghosts.

However, my biggest phobia is of high places. It is a little difficult for me to even talk about it. When I go to a high place, I feel very scared because I think I will fall. So, I hate high places even when I am in an enclosed room or space.

I am afraid of these two things, but I want to overcome all of my fears. I want to be brave and learn to be strong.



Hero Movies

5-Gentleness **Oh, Seung-Hun** (Justin)



Do you like hero movies? I like them very much and want to tell you about the similarities and differences of most hero movies. The heroes always fight for justice, and they always win eventually. All heroes are really strong,



and the story ends happily all the time. However, each hero is different. The heroes have different types of super powers. For example, some heroes can fly, and others have super strength.

Some work alone, like Spiderman, and others work as a team, like the Avengers. However, it is all these things that make hero movies so much fun. I love them so much!

Amazing Jamaica

5-Gentleness **Kim, Ho-Yeon** (Henry)



Do you know where the Caribbean is located? It is located southeast of the Gulf of Mexico and the North American mainland and north of South America. There are more than 700 islets, islands, and reefs.

Jamaica is the fifth largest island in the Caribbean. The climate is tropical with hot and humid weather. Jamaica has a very unique music called reggae. When I listen to reggae, I feel like dancing. Jamaica is famous for great athletes. Everyone knows Usain Bolt, who was a gold medalist at the Olympic Games. He is from Jamaica.



I want to visit Jamaica because it has a diverse ecosystem with a wealth of plants and animals. There are many extraordinary animals, such as wild boars, small Asian mongoose, Jamaican Hutias, and American crocodiles. I love animals, and I really want to see all of the Jamaican animals. I am not sure when I can visit Jamaica, but I hope I have a chance to go there. Thinking about playing with lots of animals at the beautiful beaches makes me happy. Jamaica wait for me!

A Story of Beak N' Feathers

5-Love **Park, Hoon** (H.P.)



A long time ago, there was a galaxy with nothing in it. No planets, no stars, or asteroids. Just a teeny tiny little piece of rock with an atmosphere. There lived only two types of creatures, birds and eggs. But of course the rock was gigantic for them to live on.

One day a bird named Beak was playing on a high cliff. He was an ordinary bird with no special talents. When he was playing hide and seek on the big cliff, he spotted a volcano and some fish getting cooked on the top. He decided to get them.

He created a new type of transportation, which didn't

Grade 5 Creative Writing

actually look like one at all, to get there. He rode it and soared into the sky! But he made a very big mistake — he dropped the TNT engine into the volcano as the craft passed over it. As soon as the engine touched the magma, the whole rock exploded, making big and small bits of round rocks creating planets and stars.



The birds that were flung to outer space made the planets turn by running in the inside of the planet like hamster wheels, and Beak, who is still riding in the craft, is making the planets rotate around the sun. That's how our solar system was made.

My Favorite Food

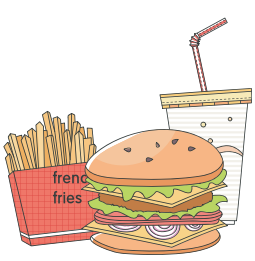
5-Love Son, Tae-Hyuk (David)



There are many different foods on Earth. There are dishes with vegetables, meat, and even insects, among many others. There are plenty of foods, and I like food. So, I would like to introduce to you the two foods that I really like.

First, I like Korean meat dishes, like galbi. There is a restaurant named Byeukjae Galbi, and they have a delicious spiced galbi that is so tasty that I feel like I am in heaven (even though it is just in my imagination). Also, at this restaurant we can eat cold noodles. When we eat spiced galbi and cold noodles together, I can't explain how I feel because it is so tremendous!

Second, I like hamburgers. I dislike McDonald's, Lotteria, and Burger King because their burgers are so simple. There are two buns, meat, mayonnaise, vegetables, and cheese. However, the burgers at Kraze Burger are amazing! At Kraze Burger, they have different types of special sauces that are very delicious. I especially like the Matiz burger, which additionally has bacon, onion, cheese, and my favorite Kraze Burger sauce. When I eat a Kraze burger, my mouth and body cheer up, making me feel happy!



Brave Princess Vianka

5-Truth Kim, Yeon-Seo (Sally K)



If you are looking for a tall tale like "the prince rescued the princess, and they married," you might want to read another story, because in this story, there is no hopeless princess, who awaits for the arrival of a brave prince.

Once upon a time, there was a princess named Vianka, who was like an energetic horse. She kicked her dish if

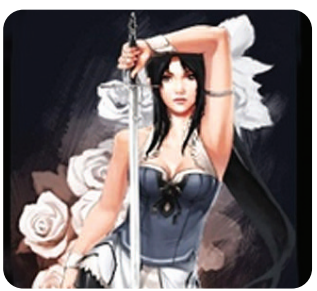
she didn't like her food or cut her clothes if she hated the design. Everyone in the kingdom worried about Vianka because there was no prince who was willing to marry her.



One day, a dragon snatched her because it thought that Vianka was a beautiful, smart, and soft princess. As you know though, Vianka was not like that at all. In a few minutes, Vianka became the dragon's friend, and also its master. Three years went by, and Vianka was still in the forest with her dragon. The king and the queen sobbed all day long thinking of their daughter. The king of another country named Furious Fredrick heard the news and attacked the country of Vianka's parents.

One day, Vianka's parents discovered that their daughter was well alive. They wrote a letter to Vianka telling her what had happened with Furious Fedrick and that they were being kept prisoners in their own castle. As soon as Vianka received the letter, she flew on the back of her dragon to the castle as fast as she could. Once Vianka was close enough to her castle, BOOM! She ordered her dragon to shoot fireballs out of its mouth, and shortly the bad guys were all destroyed.

Now, don't be expecting a "happily ever after" ending, because as you might have already noticed, this is no ordinary fairy tale. This story ends with the dragon dying because it used too much energy in the fight against Furious Fedrick. Everyone was sad, and although the country was once again at peace, Vianka was not. Vianka could not live back in the castle again. It reminded her of why her dragon had died. So she decided to go back to the forest, where she lived alone with only the memories she had left of her dragon and friend. No one ever saw or heard of her again.



My Favorite Board Game

5-Truth Park, Hyung-Gi (James)



My favorite board game is Blue Marble. Blue Marble is fun because I can win if I can buy good cities and build lots of buildings there. I have fun playing it with my friends and family. I think this game will help me, make lots of good friends. But I don't have this game. So, I'm eager to get this game. I'll talk to my mom and ask her to buy me Blue Marble.





Grade 6 Creative Writing

Father's Day

6-Wisdom **Jo, Soo-Min** (Sophie)



My school had a Father's Day event on May 1st. Many fathers and mothers came. Even some grandparents came, too. My class, the 6th grade, showed the video letters we made for our fathers. I showed mine to my father, too. In this video letter, there were also a musical performance as well as some pictures we took during our school trips. I was kind of embarrassed when my letter and the musical performance in which I performed with my friends came out on the video. So, I was relieved when it was over. After watching the video, the school gave out yogurt, water, and donuts as snacks to share with our fathers. Once we finished our snacks, it was time to go home. This Father's Day event was a special event. I think it was the best one ever!



How Can You Be Greener?

6-Wisdom **Lee, In-Sung** (Andy)



Right now on Earth, there are many kinds of environmental problems happening. The main reason is because people on Earth are wasteful with energy and the many resources it provides us. Therefore, we need to be greener and more helpful to the environment.



First, we need to use things that are recyclable over disposable items. For example, if we use paper cups, we would have to use a new one every time we want to drink water or some other drink. This would lead us to waste more trees

unnecessarily and increase the amount of garbage we make. So, instead of using disposable cups, we should try to use a mug, bottle, or glass—something that can be reused.

Next, we can be greener by taking the stairs or escalators instead of taking the elevator. Especially in big buildings and department stores, I've seen many people take the elevator. An elevator, however, requires a huge amount of energy to operate and can be dangerous. Therefore, using the stairs or escalators are much more eco-friendly!

Lastly, it is important that we create new habits to help improve the environment. For example, we could unplug all the electronic appliances that we do not use

because these electronic devices use up energy even though they might be turned off. This causes a waste of energy since the appliances are not even being used.

As you can see, there are many different ways to be more eco-friendly. I hope that from now on people will use these simple methods to become greener!

My Superpower

6-Gentleness **Yoo, Ji-Hoon** (Roy)



If I could have one superpower, I would want to be invisible. Whenever I want, I could do many special things. If I could be invisible, I would play hide and seek with my friends. Nobody else could enter the classroom sneakily like me. Also, my teacher wouldn't know that I was late for school. When bad people follow me, I could escape from them easily. I could get out without being in danger. If I could be invisible, I could sneak into the meetings of bad people and find out about their conspiracy. Then, I would let the police know, and they could catch the bad people easily. If they can protect the city from crime, everyone could live happily. If I become invisible whenever I want, I could do many special things, and everyone would envy my powers.

Why Is Friendship Important?

6-Gentleness **Ko, Joon-Oh** (Junny)



Friends are a very important part of my life. There are a few reasons why we need friends. Friends can help us when we need it, they can keep us company, and we can learn and teach many things to and from our friends.

First, friends can support us when we are in need. When I'm in a fight, or in trouble, my good friends will help me and make me feel better. We rely on each other all the time. Friends know how to support one another.

Another reason why friends are important is because they keep us company. We won't have to feel lonely or bored because we are alone. We can play together and make fun memories like on a trip, in our school life, and at other times as well. These memories will be the best in our lives.

The last reason is that we learn and teach others so many things, such as subjects in school and can share hobbies and common interests. We can make each other to be better students and people.

Due to these reasons, it's very



Grade 6 Creative Writing

important to have friends, caring people that will be there for you to help you. They play an important role in our lives!

The Importance of Trees

6-Love Oh, Yoon-Seo (Louisa)



Nowadays many people are using lots of trees. People are using trees to make furniture and paper. We can also make a ship, desk, and chair with trees. However, has anyone stopped to think how trees are important in our lives? People cut trees carelessly and overuse them, leading to a meaningful decrease in amount. Consequently, this lack of trees is presently instigating many other environmental problems.

Trees are very important to us to live because, first, trees make the air clean and give us fresh air. Trees release fresh and clean air so they make the perimeter's atmosphere good. For example, most forests have fresh air. Also, they have a neat atmosphere to breathe. Forests have a myriad of trees so they have very clean and refreshing air.

Additionally, trees prevent calamities such as landslides and floods. Landslides are caused by strong winds and rain. Therefore, the lack of trees leaves us more exposed and at a bigger risk to suffering severe damages from a landslide. Also, trees help prevent floods because they can absorb large amounts of water. In other words, trees help protect human lives from these natural disasters.

In conclusion, we have to plant lots of trees and not cut them carelessly because they are helpful to us in many different ways. We have to protect and conserve the trees that protect our lives from dangerous situations. We should always be thankful to trees.



My Favorite Book

6-Love Park, Yeon-Woo (Lola)



My favorite book is called *My Lime-Orange Tree*. This book was written by Jose Mauro de Vasconcelos, and it is a fictional story. It is about a 5-year-old boy called Jeje and his life. Jeje likes to play and trick people so his family hits him and scorns him to make him be kind. Then one day his family moves to a different house. In this new house, there is a lime-orange tree. Jeje likes to talk to the lime-orange tree. He tells the tree about everything in his life. Then he meets a new friend called Portuga, but Portuga dies in a tragic



accident. A train hits his car. Jeje is so shocked by that.

This book is my favorite book because I was so happy to read about Jeje's life. It was fun to read all the pranks Jeje had made and the nice friendship he had built with Portuga. That is why I was so sad when I read about Portuga's death. Portuga was really good to Jeje, and that is why Jeje wished for him to be his real dad. They were such good friends together, but they could not play together forever. I want to recommend this book to people who want to know about real friendship. This book tells what real friendship is.

Making a Difference

6-Truth Kim, So-Jung (Kate)



We can help people because some people really need help. This is important because serving others is a good thing. If we help them, we feel happy. Also, they feel good because we have helped them. The best ways to make a difference are volunteering and donating supplies, like food or clothing. Other ways to make a difference are difficult and not so helpful compared to the ideas I just mentioned. We should all try to make a difference in other people's lives if we can.



Father's Day Event

6-Truth Do, Ji-Hun (James)



On May 1st, my school always has a Father's Day event at school. This year it was not any different. We celebrated this special day with our fathers at school. We had previously made a video letter for our dads, so on the day of the event we showed the video letters to them. If we saw a funny thing, we all laughed. In the middle of the video, we had made a little 3-line poem. Some were funny and others were touching. After we watched the whole video, our homeroom teacher talked with our fathers. Then we got a lot of prizes. We also got some snacks like donuts and yogurt.



After the event finished, I saw a movie with my friends. We saw "Iron Man 3." I saw this movie already 2 times, but I watched it again because it is so much fun. When the movie finished, I played with my friends some more. Today was Father's Day at school, but it felt more like Children's Day.



GYESEONG STAR ●●

Experiencing Odyssey of the Mind 2013



5-Love
Park, Hoon
(H. P.)

Odyssey of the Mind in My Mind

Can you guess which team I am talking about? This team was formed in November 2012. It won 1st place at the China Odyssey of the Mind, and then, made it to the World Finals of the Odyssey of the Mind 2013, which was held in U.S.A. In the World Finals, this team won the Ranatra Fusca Award for the first time, marking a new record in the achievements made by the Korean team in this competition, and won 6th place. Do you know the name of this team? Yes! It is GENUSES!!!

In November 2012, seven students, including myself, were chosen to be part of the wonderful creativity team of Genuses. We were chosen to compete in a world famous creativity competition known as the Odyssey of the Mind. As soon as the team was formed and finalized, we all started to gather our ideas every single day after school, and finally, decided to compete for "Problem 3: ARTchitecture — The Musical."

This problem's mission was to make an eight-minute skit with music, just like a musical performance. The story should have an old building that really exists in this world. In addition, we had to include a story in which three lost treasures would be found and by combining it to the chosen building, it would complete the building. We had a guideline letting us know the main points the judges would be focusing on. Thus, we analyzed and brainstormed on each point, and the more we thought about it, the more ideas popped in our heads. We gathered our thoughts and tried to think of a way to express the building in a very special and unique way. We made a story that others could have not thought of. The creative parts of the skit based on a true story made us capable to reach for the best! Actually, some people in the audience even cried with the scene of the Sungnyemun catching on fire!

Another mission which was left for us was the spontaneous problem. We had no idea of what kind of questions would be asked, whether the time limit would be long or short, or if it would be a verbal question or not. We had absolutely no idea of what to expect. It was a total mysterious mission that made us be very anxious. But at least all the problems had something in common: we all had to work together in order to solve it! Therefore, in order to be ready for such challenge, we had to learn to be a team, a family. Acting like seven different individuals would make us definitely lose this challenge. So, we trained ourselves and learned to listen and kindly advise each other. As we spent more and more time together over the past six months, we got to know and understand each other better. When we had met for the first time, we were just like a bunch of puzzle pieces spread out and apart. However, throughout time we have been able to put all the pieces together, becoming one strong complete puzzle, each piece matching its place perfectly.

In this challenge, I felt and learned so many things I had never thought of before. I learned about teamwork, and I experienced what true friendship is. Even though the competition is over now, I do not feel as if I have come to the end of something, but more likely, I feel as if I have just come to the beginning of something wonderful. Having the many special memories and lessons left in my mind from this experience with Genuses and the Odyssey of the Mind, I set off to encounter my next journey and adventure. I would also like to take this chance to thank all of the teachers, who have worked so hard with us, for giving us the chance to be part of something so precious and for pushing our limits and taking our creativity to a higher level. I promise to never forget this experience and to make the best out of it throughout my life.



Ranatra Fusca Award

For Outstanding Creativity at the Odyssey of the Mind 2013 World Finals - ARTchitecture: The Musical, Division I

This team took a risk by using minimalistic costume and scenery to create an emotionally moving performance. Their solution told the story of South Korea's most significant National Treasure, Sungnyemun. Using almost no words, the team took us on a historical journey from its initial construction in 1396 to its destruction by fire in 2008 and restoration in early 2013. This left judges and the audience in awe; and nothing was lost in the translation.

“An Unforgettable Experience!”



5-Wisdom Jeon, Byeong-Ho (Bill)

Through this competition, I learned how to develop and share my ideas and how to make them more creative. I developed good cooperation skills, and I was able to realize that one of the most important things in life is to try your best when doing something. Also, I made new friends from all over the world. Participating in this competition has been a great experience for sure!



5-Love Ahn, Min-Young (Michelle)

The afternoon of May 25th of this year has been without doubt the best time of my life! It was the day we got the award named “Ranatra Fusca” and won 6th place in the World Finals of the world famous creativity competition the Odyssey of the Mind 2013. I think we were rewarded with this award because the judges greatly valued our hard work, effort, creativity, and above all, our friendship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped us during the competition. I will miss my friends in America and will always remember Genuses and our coaches. GO GENUSES FOREVER!!



5-Love Choi, Woo-Jin (Rex)

Being in this competition and winning a medal on stage in front of thousands of people was indeed an amazing experience. However, the most fun thing for me during the World Finals of the Odyssey of the Mind 2013 was collecting pins from other team members through pin trading. I collected about 170 pins from other teams. Also, after the competition ended, I was able to feel and notice that I had changed. I felt more confident and thankful. I also think that this experience has made me mature a little more. Even now, I still feel all the thrill and excitement the Odyssey of the Mind 2013 had brought me. Genuses will remain in my mind FOREVER!



5-Love Lee, Eun-Seo (Julia)

Participating in this competition has led me to go through many changes. It has changed my dream from wanting to be a singer or teacher to wanting to be an actress or set designer. Also, I learned how important teamwork is. Now, I love to listen to the ideas of others and share mine with them. This led me to think and look at things differently, which inspires me to try and come up with new ideas. It is always great to find new creative solutions. I wish lots of people will participate in this competition. I will always be a fan of the Odyssey of the Mind forever!



5-Love Ji, Hyeon-Woo (Ethen)

I am very proud of our successful teamwork at the competition and really thank our teachers and team members for all their hard work and support. However, during the competition, the best part for me was pin trading with others. Although you get to exchange very cool pins with many different people, for me, pin trading had a more special meaning. By trading pins I was able to share my story and feelings with others, leading me to make new friends all around the world. Now, whenever I see these pins, I can remember their owners, the chats we had, and how it felt to be at the Odyssey of the Mind 2013. Pin trading was a remarkable experience for me. If I have the chance, I want to do it again.



5-Truth Kim, Yeon-Seo (Sally K.)

I cannot say that preparing for the Odyssey of the Mind 2013 was not difficult, but I was also able to enjoy it because I liked being able to see my friends, and I liked working and practicing for this competition. The Odyssey of the Mind gave me many precious memories and lots of lessons. I love the Odyssey of the Mind! I would also like to take this chance to thank Julia, Michelle, Ethen, Billy, Jesse, and H.P. for being such good teammates and friends. Odyssey of the Mind, I love you!





GYESEONG STAR ●●

Memories of Europe 2013

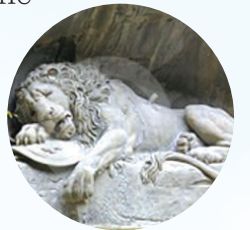


5-Wisdom
Lee, So-Hae
(Lucy)

Tuesday, August 6th, 2013

Today is our first day in Switzerland. I knew that Switzerland had a fantastic environment and that it is a great place to live in, and now actually being here, I am even more convinced. The food is delicious, especially the salads. The marvelous places we visited today were the Chapel Bridge and the Dying Lion. The Chapel Bridge is the oldest

wooden bridge in Europe. There were many swans in the river. I had never seen that many swans in a lake before! It was beautiful. The Dying Lion represents the Swiss soldiers who protected King Louis XVI with their lives. I think today was a good day for me. I was able to experience many new things.



5-Gentleness
Moon, Jung-Won
(Cindy)

Wednesday, July 24th, 2013

Dear Diary,

I hope I become the queen of Great Britain! If you are a female, you would probably understand why after visiting the royal castle, Windsor Castle. Oh my, how glorious were the rooms and the gardens of the castle! As I walked through the rooms of the castle, I saw knights' weapons, guns, beautiful and



elegant furniture, and portraits of the queens and kings.

The castle was named after Winding Shore. It is famous because it was officially used by royal families for about 1,000 years. The Buckingham Palace has been used only for the last 200 years.



This is why after my visit to Windsor Castle, I was left dreaming about becoming the queen of England and living in such a beautiful and elegant castle. I want to be a queen!



6-Love
Hong, Seung-Wook
(Seung-Wook)

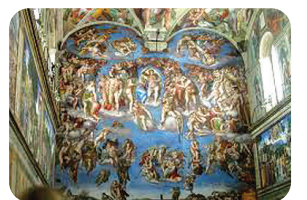
Saturday, July 27th, 2013

Dear Diary,

Today was a great day. Although the trip to London was canceled because of the rain, luckily we were still able to go to Windsor Castle and on a Harry Potter Film Location tour. At Windsor Castle, we ate lunch and bought some souvenirs. I had bought some postcards at a very expensive price on Wednesday. However, I was able to buy products of nice quality and prices today. Then, we went on the Harry Potter Film Location tour. On the tour, we saw how the movie "Harry Potter" had been made and its studios. Everything we saw in this tour was wonderful and



surprising. However, we weren't able to spend as much time as I wished we could have, so if I have the chance to come to England one more time, I hope I will be able to visit and spend more time in these filming locations again. Most of the souvenirs sold at these filming locations were expensive. That is why I couldn't buy Harry's wand. However, I was able to buy other products which I needed at a wonderful price. Overall, today turned out to be a great day for shopping, but I wish we could have spent more time at the Harry Potter filming locations. Hopefully, I'll be able to visit London again and spend more time touring the places I most liked in the near future.





Gyeseong Elementary School



6-Wisdom
Song, Na-Won
(Nicole)

Saturday, August 10th, 2013

Today, we went to Vatican City, the smallest country in the world (and also known as the country of Catholicism), because it is where the pope is chosen and lives. We firstly went to the Sistine Chapel (La Cappella Sistina), which is where the pope is elected and also some of Michelangelo's most famous artworks can be found. We saw the ceiling paintings The Last Judgement and Creation of the World and the worldwide known sculpture Pieta, in which Mary is holding Jesus. They were gigantic, colorful, and beautiful. Before leaving, I wanted to



buy some holy gifts, but I couldn't because we didn't have enough time. After visiting Vatican City, we had a meal and went to Catacombs, which is where people died because they wanted to remain loyal to their religion. It was quiet, holy, and we heard many stories of the different people who had died there. Lastly, we went to a place called Tivoli and visited the Villa d'Este. I saw some beautiful fountains (there were hundreds of them!) and natural landscapes.



Tomorrow will be the last day of our trip in Europe. I think I will miss Europe. From all the places we visited, I liked Rome and Vatican City the most!



5-Truth
Ji, Hyeon-Woo
(Ethen)

Wednesday, August 21st, 2013

The school trip I went on this summer was the best trip ever. We traveled to four different countries in Europe. We spent two weeks in Reed's School, which is in the United Kingdom. There, we did a lot of activities such as playing various sports games and having English classes. In English class, we learned about a special topic each day. Also, we did some projects, which was my favorite in-class activity. My favorite outdoors activity was playing baseball or soccer with my friends. These were my classmates' favorite outdoors activity, too. The last thing we did at Reeds School was to go sightseeing and tour the famous places in the United Kingdom.



After our visit to England, our next stop was Paris, France. We stayed there for a total of 2 days. We toured the best places in Paris. My favorite place was the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower was enormous. The view from the Eiffel Tower was very shocking. It was wonderful and it left me wondering, "How can the whole city of Paris be seen from the second floor of the Eiffel Tower?" Paris was



actually my favorite city out of all the cities we visited on this trip.

The next country we visited was Switzerland. It was very hot and humid except in Jungfrau Mountain. Even though it was freezing cold in Jungfrau, it was very exciting to climb up that high mountain. All of my stress flew away when I saw the beautiful landscape of Switzerland from the top of the mountain.

Our last stop was Italy. My favorite city was Rome, especially Trevi, where the Trevi Fountain is located. I threw two coins in the fountain hoping that my dreams will become true someday. Although I have come back home, my dreams have stayed in Europe with the two coins. When my dreams come true, I will visit Italy again.





Teachers' Introductions



Hello, Mr. Barg!

Justin Barg



Hello, everyone! My name is Justin Barg, and I'm from the frozen tundra of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a degree in Psychology. After I graduated from university, I obtained my TEFL/TESOL certificate through an intensive training course. Once this was accomplished, I was off to Korea! When I arrived in Korea, I taught kindergarten, elementary, and middle school students for 2 years. Also, during this time I obtained my CELTA certificate. After this I moved to Hankuk University of Foreign Studies to teach business adults from companies such as POSCO, KEPCO, Samsung, iMarket Korea, and even the Presidential Secret Service! When I was finished at Hankuk University, I decided to come back to teaching children, and here I am at Gyeseong Elementary! Some of my hobbies are exercising and playing all sorts of sports, and I also love to go hiking through all of the beautiful mountains in Korea. It is my utmost pleasure to be here at Gyeseong Elementary School, and I'm really looking forward to being your teacher!

Hello, Ms. Caroline!

Caroline Bryan



Hello, my name is Caroline Bryan, and I am from Birmingham, Alabama located in the southeast of the United States. I have a BFA in Fashion Design and Merchandising from O'More College of Design in Nashville, Tennessee. In my free time, I enjoy traveling and spending time with my friends. I have been teaching English in Korea for over 2 years, and I am very excited to now work at Gyeseong Elementary School. I strive to be the best teacher I can be and genuinely care about my students. Sometimes teaching can be really challenging, but when the students start improving and get excited to speak English, it makes me feel very accomplished and happy.

Hello, Mr. Smith!

Matthew Smith



Howdy, everyone! My name is Matthew Smith, I'm from the heart of Texas, and I'm the proud father of two beautiful girls named Evelyn and Sophia. I am a certified General Education and ESL (English as a Second Language) classroom teacher in America. I've been fortunate enough to study and work in Korea off and on since 2006. I'm currently pursuing my M.A. in ELL (English Language Learning), but when I'm not studying, I love reading books and playing with my kids. I'm really happy to have the chance to work for such a great school like Gyeseong. I look forward to making a difference in the lives of the students here.

