

October 2009
Volume 1 issue 2

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A Welcome from the Dorm Parents

Mr. Abdoulaye and Sybil Wone



Dear Parents,

As we end the month of October, the staffs, teachers and students are reminded of the fresh beginnings and the adjustments that we have made in order to reach out to one another. As builders of the culture of heart, it is so reassuring to know that we are showered with God's eternal, constant love and care.

With this assurance, we want to treasure all of our students at World Student Garden and expect them to grow spiritually, academically, emotionally, physically and socially within this safe and nurturing environment of God's love.

We desire for God's presence to permeate every aspect of school and dorm life as we seek to share His love with others day-by-day, both by example through interactive teachings and activities

One of our main activities this month is the culture of heart festival. It is a festival where the East and the West meet. The festival showcases aspects of Korean-Japanese culture, including music, art, martial arts and dance, and allows western students to celebrate their heritage. By this, we expect each student to take ownership in creating a God centered universal culture .

We seek, through this cultural activity, to give an opportunity to the students to serve God to the very best of their abilities. We invite you to partner with us - in our efforts to build God's culture.

Many blessings to all of you
Sincerely,
The Dorm Parents

October

October was certainly a month to remember. From festivals to concerts, to exams and internal reflection, we nearly covered it all here at the WSG. We hope that through this issue we will be able to give you a front seat to all the exciting events over here in Korea.

Chuseok Weekend

Korean tradition heralds the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar to be a special weekend. It is Chuseok, the Harvest Festival holiday. For many people it means that they finally get a break from work's grinding schedule; It also means a time for family. People will travel hours back to their hometowns to pay respects to their ancestors and to honor family. For the students at the WSG, Chuseok meant 3 things: Yute, Wonjon, and Everland.

Our annual Yute tournament was a favorite for many students. Together with the Japanese program at the Sunhwa Dormitory and our students, nearly 8 teams competed against each other for a prize of 100,000 Won. Many people



Naomi and Midori following the rules outside the Itaewon military base.

*Publications of this newsletter are released on the 1st of the month or as close as possible.

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Yute!



The WSG family in front of Heung Jin Nim's Won Jon



The animals are loose!



The brothers on a ride out to sea

strove their utmost to gain the spiritual fortune to win the prize, and students even lost their voices in the process.

Wonjon

The Moon family Wonjon is the sacred burial ground for the True Family. Each year the WSG attends this event in honor of our "true ancestors." The main ceremony held is to honor Heung Jin Nim.

Early Saturday morning we left the dorm expecting to run into traffic on the road and a whole crowd of people at the Wonjon. To our delight, however, it was a quick drive and we were able to get great seats for Heung Jin Nim's attendance ceremony. We were sitting just a few feet from the True Family and Dae Mo Nim. It was really wonderful to be in such an intimate space with some of our extended church family. Afterwards we were able to walk around the site with chances to pray at the other burial mounds (Korean style of honorifically burying their dead). It was a very special event.

Everland

With roller coasters, twisting and spinning rides, silly looking oversized costumes, expensive food, and much more, Everland is the Disneyland of Korea. How did the students like it? WSG news asked a few.

"Everland was so fun! The first thing

we did was go on a boat ride that swung really high. Then we went on a rodeo ride and a water ride that was cool and worth the wait. It was fun because we got all wet! Then we went to the T-Express. The T-Express is the steepest wooden roller coaster in the world, and we went on it three times. It was a crazy drop. It was almost vertical."

Nick Stevens



A full view of the T-Express

"It was so much fun. We went on fun rides and played and talked"

Cherish McKnight

"Everland wasn't just fun because of the rides and fun things to do there; it was fun because I was with people that made it fun. If I had gone on the T-Express by myself it wouldn't have been even an eighth as fun as it was when I was with other people... It was the jokes and comments made while waiting, eating and looking around that made the experience memorable."

Jeung Bok Holmquist

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Eikoku Ikeno
Wisconsin, USA

This year's Culture of Heart Festival was an event filled with the myriad displays of students' skills and talents. Ranging from solo ballet and operatics, group Won Wha Do performances, group instrumentals and group dances, to the presentations given by the speech contest winners of the Avanti Arts Festival; each of the performances did well to illustrate the merit of our gifted students.



Moreover, this year's culture of heart festival was also a festival filled with firsts. For the first time Bo Hi Pak gave the keynote address. For the first time, Korean non-church students actively participated in the performances. And more importantly, the Western program gave, not one, but two moving performances. The first of which was an A cappella performance, and the second of which was a touching skit.

Beyond the performances, Bo Hi Paks' rousing keynote address was one of the more inspiring events of the evening. Speaking upon his own personal journey of faith, the role of second generation and the significance of the World Student Garden, Bo Hi Pak's speech truly rounded out the evening and helped bring into perspective not only the preciousness of each of the students performances, but also to that of the innate responsibility and merit we carried as second generation.

As for performances, the piece de resistance, for me at least, was that of Western student performances. The a cappella group, led by our multitalented staff, Richard Curry, sang three beautifully arranged songs complete with choreography and



all. This feat was not only augmented by the fact that several of the students fought with colds to perform, but also by the fact that they were presented with the honor of serving

as the opening performance. The second of the western performances was a stirring adaptation of the skit performed to Lifehouse's "Everything," which chronicled the struggles of one young girl as she wrestles with overwhelming temptations during her journey of faith, ultimately overcoming them to return to God's embrace. At the end of the girls' performance, few eyes were free of tears.



As a whole, one could truly see the result of the students' many hours of practice and rehearsal. This level of complete investment was even more evident in having actually seen the countless hours of practice the western members dedicated to their acts after school.

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**Erika Gordon
and Aimi Asanuma**

Hey! This month on November 1st a big event took place called the Culture of Heart festival. It is where students have the chance to show off their talent and unite with other students. We decided to interview some of the students. Here is the inside scoop on their opinions:

E & A: How do you feel about your acapella performance?

Midori: I was not as nervous as I thought I would be. I was happy to see Mr. Kim's bald head. I was having a lot of fun on stage. After the performance I felt down because we couldn't do our last song, but overall, I thought my performance was good.



E & A: And the skit?

Midori: Before the skit, I was a bit nervous. I wanted to touch people's hearts. I had fun. Afterwards, I felt

like the skit went really well. I was glad that I could touch people even without knowing their language.

E & A: Takauto, as a spectator, what was your opinion?

Takauto: The COHF is for all types of talent, shown by the fact that it is diverse in music, songs, dancing and movies. Also, the fact that the whole festival is made from the students efforts makes it more likely for people to watch the events for parents.



E & A: What was your favorite performance?

I liked the Axis Girls because they had good coordination. I also like the woodwind band because it was very unique. Most people think, when they hear the COHF, that it is all ordinary events, but it is not. A performance like this, which is so culturally universal, is hard to describe in pieces like this, so you have to come and see this wonderful event.

E & A: We also had a student participate in the Korean speech contest. Kurena, how was your speech?

Kurena: A week before the speech I was really nervous, but the day of the speech, I did not feel nervous at all. On that day, while everyone was dressing up into their han boks, I was still not nervous at all. While I was backstage, I started to realize that it was time to do my speech. Backstage, all the Japanese students except for Letti and me were practicing their speeches. I was playing around! Somehow I felt confident because of all the support I was getting from the Western program and teachers.

E & A: As you can see, the participants and audience had various opinions and overall enjoyed the COHF.



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Aika Callahan

The GOPs, the PREPs, and the Yebi Japanese Students all went to Sorak Mountain for a field trip after exams.

Because exams were so stressful, it was a nice feeling to just go into the countryside and smell the fresh air.

We left at 7:30 am and arrived at 11:00am to eat lunch. Most of us, the westerns, were not used to Korean-style meals, so we left empty stomached. So while we were climbing the mountain later on, it was very tiring.



We rode a cable car up half the mountain. When I thought we were at the top, we were only half way. It was so hard! But finally when we reached to the top, I felt very accomplished. We came

back to the dorm very late. My legs were very sore the next day, but luckily we had no school.

Sorak Mountain was a very good experience to me. Thank you.



The first day, we didn't go to the top of the mountain, but instead we hiked around the rocky area. After finishing up the hard trail, we went to visit the big statue of Buddha. There, we saw the ocean and it was very pretty, though it smelled like fish. We went to our condominium and slept there. The next day we went to Sorak Mountain again and climbed to the top of the mountain.



Also this Month:

Starting of Rotations: These small groups allow the students to intimately connect with each other and staff members. Sessions are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:45-9:30. Students spend 6 sessions with each staff, and then rotate to the next staff for another 6 sessions. Topics include: Spirit World, Finding My Original Value, The Providential Meaning of 2012, and the Art of Discussion.

Exams: On the 26th and 27th, the GOPs and PREP students had their first round of exams. Grades will officially come out next week.

Military base excursion: A fellow church member Mr. Emmanuel took us to the Itaewon military base for an All American experience of hot dogs, chips, field games, and a lot of Westerners.

Little Giants: In concert with the Culture of Heart Festival, this art show showcased two of our Western student's pieces of work from the Japanese Sunhwa students.



Jin Lim.
True Love
(a
recreation)



Stephanie
and Siana
*Breaking
Free*

Upcoming events:

November:

14th (Saturday) Bird Hill Field trip

21st-22nd (Saturday) Cheong Pyeong

28th (Saturday) Pottery making, and the BIRTH-DAY PARTY

December: Christmas & Winter Workshop

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