



# The PaperClip



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Chinese New Year Show

## Formula One Race is the Stage for Choir Performance

BY EMALIE HERMANS

For most of the students and teachers at the racetrack on Sunday, it was the performance of a lifetime.

On April 18 the Formula 1 Grand Prix took place at the Shanghai International Circuit. Over 20,000 people showed for the event, and millions around the world were watching on television. Before the races started, our school was lucky enough to get to perform as part of a choir on the race track right on the starting line.

The event was organized by the head music teacher at the British International School Shanghai (BISS), Mr. Neill Thacker. The choir was made up of 400 students and teachers from the two schools. WISS was represented by 75 students from grade two and up, and along with BISS performed a fantastic show. The choir sang two songs, the Expo theme song "Better City, Better Life" and "We Are the World."



WISS and BISS students perform at the F1 race on April 18.

The choir walked onto the track from a holding area and sang without a hitch at around 1:30PM, and the race started at 2:00. Once the race started it was instantly loud, as in breaking-your-eardrums loud. The cars were incredibly fast, and the choir all had front row seats to the excitement.

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## Performing Arts Flourish at WISS

BY SOHAIL KALIA AND NINA WANG

The performing Arts program here at WISS has developed quite a bit over the last few months. The school is getting more equipped with props, musical instruments, tools, and technology. This is enhancing our lessons, shows and activities a lot. The school has been growing for a few years now, but this

academic year WISS has rapidly grown and is ready to show people its true potential. We have seen it many times. Whether it is the Instrumental Classes or the Chinese New Year Performances, parents, students, and staff have all seen how amazing our school has become in this field.

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# Life Before WISS: Director Flanagan

BY CATHY TANG

WISS Director Mr. Todd Flanagan has always had a strong interest in writing and was once a journalist for three years. He wrote newspaper articles for papers in Australia, England, and New Zealand. He worked in Australia, India, throughout Southeast Asia, and Africa.

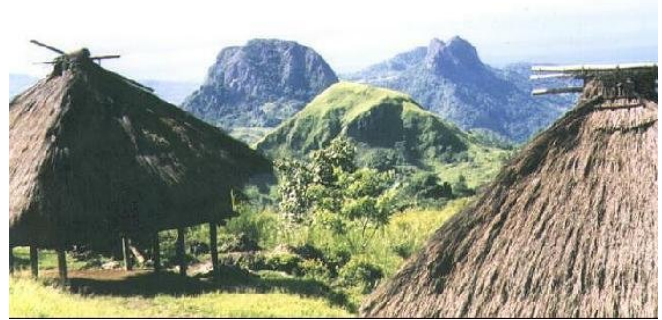
“When you have a great love for something, like I have for writing...then it feels like you never have to go to work,” Mr. Flanagan said.

Mr. Flanagan said that everyday when he went to work, it didn't feel like work because it is was also a hobby.

“Sometimes I feel that I shouldn't be paid for writing and that I should be paying other people for the experience,” he said.

Although Mr. Flanagan has a strong love for writing, he said that the reason why he stopped writing as a profession is because the job was unstable and inconsistent. You never know when you are going to get your next assignment, and you don't know where they are going to send you, he explained. He also said that he had to spent long hours in airports and train stations.

The career could also be dangerous when working in third-world countries; Mr. Flanagan once caught malaria and



Timor-Leste, one of the countries where Mr. Flanagan was a journalist.

was very sick for about a month. One of the other things that caused Mr. Flanagan to stop being a journalist was because he spent most of his time travelling and was always away from home.

Mr. Flanagan said he was able to meet and interview a lot of interesting people, including Mother Teresa. If you have a strong love for writing, being a journalist is definitely a suitable job for you because it is a great profession and you can gain a lot of experience from the job.

## Around WISS

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks, otherwise it will digest itself.

In Da House WISS has introduced a House system under which students are grouped into four houses: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. Activities began in March with team-building and get-to-know-you games.

Country Living WISS secondary school students went on an overnight field trip to the Xing Qi Jiu Ecological Farm from March 26 to 27. Activities for the trip, organized by the Student Council, included horseback riding, strawberry-picking, and catching chickens. Several students brought live chickens home in bags, making for an interesting bus ride back to Shanghai.

**The Final Exam** The week of March 29, the primary and secondary schools underwent the process of authorization for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years and Diploma Programmes. Administrators and teachers met with the authorizers to discuss curriculum and resources. Verdicts are expected in the coming weeks.

**Green for Green** On April 17 and 18, WISS students and teachers took part in the fifth Shanghai Eco Design Fair, an event showcasing products that are sustainable, organic, natural, non-toxic, recycled, ethical, energy-saving, and environmentally aware. The proceeds from the fair are benefiting the Roots & Shoots organization's Million Tree Project in Inner Mongolia.

**Lights Out** On April 27, the whole school is participating in “No Electricity Day,” led by Grade Three. In order to reduce the use of non-renewable energy at WISS, classrooms will use natural sunlight and will not use air conditioning or heat. A cold lunch will be served in the cafeteria.

**Better City – Better Life** With the opening of the World Expo in Shanghai on May 1, the Shanghai government has mandated that all schools be closed for an extended weekend from April 30 to May 4. The long break gives students the opportunity to visit the Expo site.

# Editors' Note

As Dave Barry once wrote, "Newspaper readership is declining like crazy. In fact, there's a good chance that nobody is reading my column." While it may be true that nobody is reading this Editors' Column, the PaperClip is lucky that there is not yet an Internet-based substitute for the news it delivers. But remember to keep on supporting the PaperClip and other print media!



PaperClip editor Emalie Hermans lifts her chopsticks to drum at the Chinese New Year show.

One day you may miss being able to hold a newspaper in your hands and flip through it.

In this, the third issue of the PaperClip for the 2009-2010 school year, we've put together a variety of news and feature articles for your enjoyment and perusal. Emalie Hermans reports on the opportunity for students and teachers to sing in a choir that performed on the starting line at the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix. Sohail Kalia and Nina Wang paint a picture of the evolving performing arts program at WISS. And Cathy Tang delivers an inside look into the school director's past career in journalism.

As we reach the final quarter of the school year, let's make the most of the time we have together! Old friends have left and new friends have arrived, and the WISS community is growing larger and warmer. -The editorial board of the PaperClip

# Editorial Board

The PaperClip

Founded 2009 at the Western International School of Shanghai

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The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they can be confused at crime scenes.

## OPINION: Coming Together to Support Quake Victims

BY PAPERCLIP STAFF

The many recent devastating natural disasters have given us a lot to think about. Just in the past few months, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile together killed more than 236,000 people, and last week an earthquake in the Qinghai province of western China claimed more than 2000 lives.

The world community, including Shanghai, came together admirably to send aid to the stricken areas, although it wasn't easy. Communications networks, hospitals, airports and other

### 青海省玉树县发生 7.1 级地震



transport facilities were severely damaged in Haiti, making rescue efforts difficult. In Chile, riots and prison breaks made living in the affected areas continually dangerous. And the destroyed houses in Qinghai province left many without shelter for days.

Benefits such as the "Dance for Haiti" at the Zhijiang Dream Factory in Shanghai on March 5 are a good step towards raising consciousness of the suffering of others and extending a helping hand. Here at WISS we too are part of a global community that has the responsibility to help those in need, both in our city and around the world.

# WISS and BISS Herald F1 Race Finals

## CHOIR FROM PAGE 1

The race was full of anticipation and yells for favorite teams, but in the end it was the McLaren team that placed 1-2. Jenson Button from the UK won first place with fellow Brit Lewis Hamilton in second place. Button has won two races so far this season—a mix of good driving and sound tire strategy played a key part in his success—and Button has proved that he won't let Hamilton blow him away.

The race was “a once in a lifetime chance, and really exciting,” a WISS student said. Another student was quoted



WISS singers at the Formula One Grand Prix in Shanghai.

saying that Hamilton really proved himself and that it'd be an event they would remember for a long time.

The choir members had to be 100 percent dedicated to the performance, attending several rehearsals at BISS and at the racetrack. For their efforts, they were rewarded with free t-shirts and windbreakers and the opportunity to be part of a very special event.

Said WISS Head of Music Anne Drouet, who organized our school's participation in the choir: “For many of us, yesterday will be a memory to treasure for a lifetime.”

# More Musical Options on the Horizon

## ARTS FROM PAGE 1

Ms. Anne Drouet, the Head of Music at WISS, has had a huge role in the development of the performing arts program. She has directed the performances of most of the shows done this year and is ready for more. According to Ms. Drouet, the school program will advance even more with new Drama and Dance lessons and a wider range of music lessons. So far around 150 students take performing arts lessons and there are four teachers in charge of them.

“Seeing everybody being a part of the group and seeing them happy is the most important part of all the performances,” said Ms. Drouet. “But there were some challenges involving the lighting and the way everything was set up.”

Obviously it isn't easy being in charge of so much work and making sure everything goes right. But the final product that is the performances isn't all that is important in the program. The process that every teacher and student has to go through along the way has always been just as important. This course that our school follows allows teachers and students to put their creativity together and communicate with a differ-

ent method. To achieve the ability of teamwork is also another reason for the program. The objective and the product are both equally rewarding.

WISS Director Mr. Todd Flanagan is very persistent in keeping this program accelerating in this direction. When asked about his vision of the performing arts program in the future, Director Flanagan said, “I would like people to

think ‘WISS’ when they think of an international school with a superior Performing Arts Program.”

He also says that the program has vast importance to our school and to the students' lives.

“The Arts can provide a powerful way of engaging youth and developing their curiosity and commitment,” Mr. Flanagan said. “It also sets high standards for quality and success.”

The program is very encouraging. As the program develops

with options it will be more open for students, allowing them to choose a path that they wish to follow instead of a path that is chosen by the school. This is the most intriguing part of the program and hopefully its goals will be realized.



Grade One performs a fan dance at the Chinese New Year show.

## Video Game review: Playstation 3

BY ETHAN SIMS

The Playstation is the greatest gaming system ever made by Sony. Counting down from nine, I'm going to tell all about the most fantastic games you can play on Playstation.

9. Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack in Time: Now Clank is the main character. This game seems to never take anything seriously. Clank is always making jokes and is never serious, so it's 9.
8. Final Fantasy XIII is pretty diverse: there are fighting monsters and evil things, but the creators should know that you can't really hear the original track in Japanese, and the characters' voices are so high that it gets annoying, so it's 8.
7. Dragon Age: Origins is a game much like Warcraft—there is magic and battling creatures, but it just is not very good on the Playstation 3—on PC, the game's a lot better—so it's 7.
6. MLB 10: The Show: This game is the most realistic baseball game out there, but the game doesn't really improve on other ones. It's basically the same as MLB 2009, so it's 6.
5. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 is an awesome game. There are so many twists and challenging levels and good guns to choose from, but there only 12 levels, so the game is gone so soon—it's 5.
4. BioShock 2 has great weapons, intensity, sound and graphics. Health and ammo are hard to pick up off the floor, and it's not automatic so sometimes you miss it—for that reason it's 4.
3. Heavy Rain really just almost gets best. The really cool part of this game is that there is no right or wrong way of doing anything—the game just adapts to what you do. 3.
2. Uncharted 2 is like Indiana Jones: he goes from place to place in search of artifacts, dodging arrows from walls and trying not to get shot. There are almost no bad things in the game, so it gets 2.
1. The ultimate game is God of War III. This game is just fantastic. You fight the gods trying to lift the curse and there is a dramatic way of killing every monster. This game is like no other for it truly is #1.

## Film Review: Avatar

BY VILI VALLAS

Avatar, released December 10, 2009. Directed by James Cameron, starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Stephen Lang, and Sigourney Weaver. 162 minutes.

Famous director James Cameron directed this 3-D movie, Avatar. It is about US marine

who goes to the planet Pandora and interacts with the humans and the local alien species, the Na'vi. He uses his dead brother's avatar to live in this world with a psychic connection to it. When it is time for the battle, he has to choose which side he is on.

I liked how they showed the new planet Pandora when they were searching for the underground ore. The animals looked really cool, and the vehicles they used had interesting futuristic designs. It was a good story.

I didn't like how the actors have been in a lot of other movies. They should find new actors. But it was great to watch, especially in 3-D.



## Trivia is Trivial for Grade 9 Student

Back in March, WISS secondary school students embarked on a weekly test of skill, stamina, and useless knowledge. On April 14, only one was crowned the champion of the Trivia Contest to End All Trivia Contests. Sohail Kalia, Grade Nine, now reigns supreme in knowing the answers to questions such as "What creature's tongue weighs as much as a full-grown elephant?" [Answer: The blue whale]

Every Friday morning, all secondary students answered eight questions. The categories included Nature, Entertainment, Sports, History, Science/Technology, and Books. After four weeks, the top two scorers in each grade moved on to the final round. During the final round, each of the participants was given a whiteboard and 20 seconds to write down each answer. Three incorrect answers meant elimination.

Perhaps the most humorous question was this: "What do you call a group of hippos: a splat, a bloat, or a bongo?" The answer, a bloat, got many chuckles.

After several rounds, the contest came down to Sohail and Thomas Gizur, also of Grade Nine. As the winner, Sohail received chocolate and an article about him in the PaperClip.



Thomas Gizur concedes defeat at the hands of Sohail Kalia.

# Advice Column: Ask Lucy

Dear Lucy, I am constantly late. It's always for different reasons-sometimes I start daydreaming about what it would be like to meet Ash Ketchum from Pokémon, and before I know it, I'm half an hour late for my piano recital. Other times, I am late for school because I fall into an open sewer on my way to the bus, or I miss volleyball practice because I am attacked by hordes of lobsters. What can I do about always being late? It's starting to make me look bad to my friends and teachers.

Sincerely, Delayed

Dear Delayed,

I'm sorry to hear about your problem of being late. However, I think you need to realize that Ash Ketch-whatever is a fictional character and you will never get to meet him. Sorry to be blunt but this is just how it is. For the sewer problem, try looking where you walk. I find that really helps when I'm trying to avoid falling into a sewer. As for the lobsters, I'm just wondering do you suffer from hallucinations. I mean, lobsters in Shanghai? Yeah right.

Hope I could be of help, Lucy

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the alphabet. It also teaches us about the habits of foxes and dogs.

Dear Lucy, I think my best friend may be a werewolf. I've always thought he was unusually hairy, but he's been acting strange lately, and the other day he pulled a dead sheep out of his backpack by accident. I'm not afraid of him—actually, I've wanted to meet a werewolf since reading Twilight—but I'm worried that I'll seem less cool next to all his new werewolf friends. How can I make sure we stay friends?

Sincerely, Not-So-Furry

Dear Not-So-Furry,

Have you been reading lots of fictional books? Obviously Twilight has affected your rational thinking. I'm sorry to say that werewolves do not exist. Maybe your friend has hypertrichosis, a disease that promotes abnormal hair growth on the body. As for the sheep, are you sure it wasn't a stuffed animal? Or maybe your imagination is just overactive. How a whole sheep could fit in a backpack I do not know. Why don't you tell him what you think and maybe you guys can figure out a way to solve it? That'll help. Probably. Or he might laugh at you for thinking something so strange, but you never know.

Hope I was a help, Lucy

## Roots & Shoots Kids Work the Land at Organic Farm

BY STEVE CHOI

Last month, the WISS Roots & Shoots team went organic gardening at the Qingpu senior high school. We learned how to plant strawberries and other plants. We also saw different kinds of huge tools that are used for organic gardening. They told us an amazing thing: they have over 190 students working on the organic farm.

The dinner at Qingpu senior high school was really cheap and delicious. The high school's buildings, basketball court, and dormitory were really big. They also told us that they are building a huge library for the Qingpu senior high school students. The local high school students were really interested in our Roots & Shoots team. We had a good time there.

Roots and Shoots is an international youth community service organization that encourages young people to identify problems in their communities and empowers them to seek change.



WISS students work with Qingpu senior high school students in their organic garden.

# A Letter from Australia: Taylor Griffin

BY TAYLOR GRIFFIN

Hi Guys,  
I really miss everyone back in China, but being in my home country is great. Seeing all my family was good and being able to talk to people is very helpful! I think the hardest thing about moving anywhere is leaving all you know and care for behind. That was the hardest thing about leaving WISS. I had to say goodbye to all the GREAT people I knew (EVERYONE) and go make a new life for the sixth time in my life. In Australia life is quite different than in China, down to how you speak, how you eat, how you talk and you live. In Australia at least you can

cross the street without praying for your life, but in China that was the kind of thing that made life exciting. Another example is the interactions with other people. In Australia you can start a conversation easily and 10 minutes later you have some new friends, but in China the ones that you meet at school are pretty much all you have. But don't get the idea that China is a harder place to live. It's just a different way, and that's what makes living there such a great experience. In China you can eat a full dinner for four people for less than SAUD20. That is really cheap! In China you can read a sign and laugh your guts out just from a single misspelling. It really is a great place. WISS was a great school. It had such an amazing sense of community and friendship that I really am going to

miss. The teachers there are really amazing people. They have so much to give and do it so well that they are unforgettable. People like that are very rare so make sure you recognize

I hope that you will continue to influence your students as you have influenced me.

I would like to say a special thanks to Mr. "Gucinello," who was the best English teacher in the world! You are a wonderful person and I miss your long and interesting lectures about life and your amazing stories. You are an amazing teacher—keep it up. To everyone else: you have one of the best opportunities you'll likely ever get and those are opportunities that you really



Taylor Griffin in his new school uniform

it and appreciate it for all it's worth! My new school seems very strict, but at least there's less homework. They have a very posh uniform that is not the most comfortable thing I've ever worn, plus we have to tuck in our shirts, but at least they do teach Chinese. That is really good because then all Ms. Xie taught me won't go to waste! One thing I actually quite like is how we have three classes a day and each class for 1 hour and 40 minutes. To all my friends at WISS (Western International SUPER School), I miss you. I had a great time and am a better person for knowing you. To all the teachers, you are amazing people and

shouldn't let fly by. Work hard, study harder but really, play hardest (just kidding), seriously though guys, focus (Yes I mean you Willem). To all my great friends (Yes, I mean Stevo and Tim and Adam and Willem and pretty much the whole secondary school (as Mr. Kline would want), you were my greatest friends. Never have I been able to be comfortable around nearly everyone I knew.

To my Dad, who I love more than life, and Amy, who is always at his side, I love you, and can't wait to see you again when you come back to Amazing Australia!

Your Aussie mate,  
Taylor

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# Sudoku

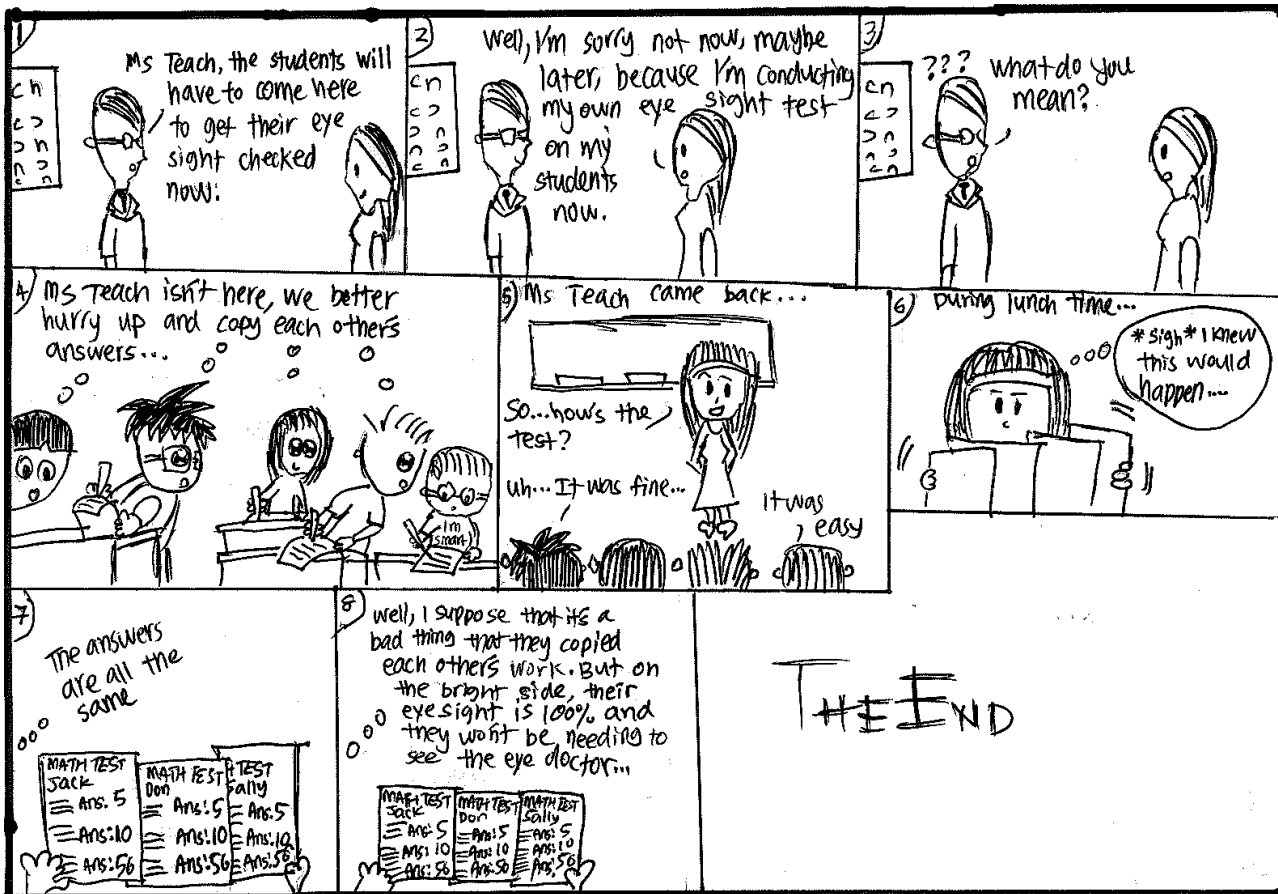
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## Jokes

- Q. How did the farmer fix his pants?  
A. With a cabbage patch!
- Q. How does a fireplace feel?  
A. Grate!



On Friday, March 5, WISS primary and secondary students and teachers donned their most literary costumes for a school-wide celebration of Book Week! The festivities included a parade of characters and a Grade 5 show.



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