



# OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

## International Department Newsletter Term Four 2018

### Term Four Highlights

Welcome to the end of 2018! I am compiling this newsletter from Shanghai, China as I am taking part in our teacher exchange with Guangming High School. I am teaching English here for five weeks and will return to New Zealand later in December.

It is hard to believe we are at this point in the year where we celebrate the many amazing accomplishments and experiences our students have had. It has been a very busy year of school and the students and teachers have applied themselves to learn new skills and techniques to better the education we are all a part of. We would like to thank the school, students, and our international community for creating a fulfilling year.



This term got off to a physical start with all Year 10 students doing a self-defence course, and the Year 11 outdoor education class a kayaking assessment. The house competition had two events during the term with the haka and gardens competitions.

Term Four is always full of school events and the students always step up and

perform exceptionally well. In our International and ELLs (English Language Learners) evening, prizes were given for English Language, and we farewelled the students who are leaving at the end of this year. Performances on the piano and dancing were done, as well as a Year 13 leavers' play written and directed by Louise Lin. It was very sad as some of these students have been OGHs students for up to four years and been an integral part of our school.





The annual Celebration Service was held at Knox Church. It was a real celebration as you could feel the enthusiasm in the songs sung by all. The Cultural and Scholar Blues evening also showcased more amazing talent that we have at school. Hermione Hai played her traditional Chinese instrument called the *zheng*, which is very beautiful to listen to. Several international students received certificates and blues awards in the evening.

NCEA examinations are a big part of the year for many as well as a different type of assessment. The senior students who were not doing NCEA took part in an international programme where they explored areas around the city and the Catlins. Not only did they have a special programme, but they were also to join Year 10 camps and explore more and even further stunning locations.

We would like to congratulate all the prize winners for the year. Their names and awards are listed in the newsletter. The Year 13 ball is the final and most extravagant event of the year. This is a fitting way to mark the end of high school life and the move into the next chapter of their lives.

We wish everybody a very happy summer time!



Teresa Wang: Year 12 Photography Folio

### Guangming Report by Mrs Boomer



Nihau from Shanghai, China. I am currently at our sister school, Guangming Middle School, on a teacher exchange. The school is located right in the heart of downtown Shanghai and there are many tall buildings around it. Guangming is a coed school with approximately the same number of students as OGHS and there are more boys than girls in the classes I have been teaching.

We presently have 13 girls from Guangming in our school, and a Guangming teacher was at our school for part of Term 3. I am spending five weeks at Guangming teaching oral language and writing in a more New Zealand style. The students I have been teaching so far would be the equivalent of Years 11 and 12. I have been impressed by the level of English of some of the students and their willingness to share their ideas and opinions with the class.

Classes start at 8:00 and finish at 4:20 or 5:10. There is a ten-minute break after each class and two during the day that are a little longer. In the breaks, students do things such as play basketball, badminton, do their homework, or sleep. Twice a day they do some physical exercises in the room and some massage to help their eyes.

The school canteen serves breakfast and lunch, but it seems mainly teachers eat their breakfast at school. Breakfast is served 6:30 - 8:30, and lunch 11:15-12:30. It is a lively place at lunch time

as students and teachers all eat in the same room. There are a few different options for each meal, and Western food is served on Wednesdays. Some snacks are also on sale in the afternoon break.

My apartment is only a five-minute walk from school so I haven't had to take the subway at rush time. The streets in my area haven't been as busy as I expected but it can still be somewhat crazy as street lights seem to be more of an indication of what you should do rather than what is done. You need to keep checking every way for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and quiet, electric scooters that don't have their lights on at night. In my free time, I have been exploring the city and learning more about its varied history.



I have also been able to catch up with some former and present students in China and Cambodia. It is wonderful to see the students in their own culture and with their families. I have been teaching Chinese students for 18 years and this is just my first time to come to China so this has been a great opportunity for me to meet some of our students' parents, teach in a Chinese school and see where our students come from.

### Community Award for Louise Lin



Louise was awarded The Trustpower Youth Community Spirit Award. It "recognised and celebrated the contributions of our future community leaders. The Award is run and presented alongside the Trustpower Community Awards, bringing young people together with the wider voluntary sector operating in their community."

Louise was nominated because of her extensive environmental volunteer work. She has been volunteering at Orokonui Ecosanctuary, and Quarantine Island regularly for wildlife habitat restoration which normally involves some weeding and planting, done some volunteer work in the Chinese Garden, and was part of Enviroschools at OGHS. Louise was nominated one of the regional finalists of the wider Dunedin and Balclutha area.

### Kiwi Birthday party by Hermione Hai

I went to my friend Maya's birthday party. She is the member of my Kiwi friends group, and she is very nice to me. We swam and tried to jump in the water. After that we had a lovely dinner and delicious birthday cake. We also played an interesting game like you need to find the killer. It was very meaningful to me because it was my first time to join a birthday party that the girls are from a different country.





## Writing by Valerie Lu

The following piece of writing is from Valerie Lu, who was Year 12 this year. It was written as her personal response to an article in *Mindfood* (July 2018) called "All the Lonely People". We found it very moving and insightful and hope you do too.

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For a very long time, I've been insisting on believing that social media is the chief culprit of causing people nowadays to suffer from loneliness. I always think that we are too addicted to texting people online instead of talking to each other in real life. Thus, we feel so lonely in this world because of our lack of true feelings of communicating with other people. But this article called *All the Lonely People* has changed my one-sided opinion.

"You are able to 'find your tribe' and like-minded individuals, bridge geographical boundaries and feel a part of something that you might not have been able to do easily 15 years ago." This viewpoint reminds me of that social media actually tighten the relationship with our friends. With the help of social media, I'm able to catch up with my friends back in my primary school so easily even if we live in a different hemisphere. I can see what is going on in their lives as we all share our lives in social media so I feel I'm connected with them as if I'm a part of their lives. And I can also join a variety of interest groups to exchange my ideas with those people who are interested in the same field as I do. "Social isolation has a very big impact on wellbeing - research has shown that social connection is as important as good nutrition. So being able to connect is a huge part of being human." I realize that being connected with friends is the first step of getting rid of loneliness. And social media provides us exactly such a platform to feel so without the limitation of time nor space. Social media has been criticized too much improperly but it's literally helpful to keep us away from the risk of loneliness. We should not judge this kind of necessary connection just because it's so new to human beings.

As mentioned in the article. "In fact, the recent study by Cigna found that generation Z (18 to 22 years old) were the loneliest group, followed by millennials (aged 23 to 27)." Why do we feel lonely? It sounds unreasonable that the generation who seem the most active generation in social activities and social media feel the loneliest. According to myself, there are 3 main reasons.

Especially for students who study abroad like me, we often feel quite lonely even though we use social media frequently. Therefore, the feeling of being connected is not enough to ease my loneliness with no companionship of my parents and relatives. So the first reason behind my loneliness is that I don't have belongingness in an unfamiliar country. I have lived in my hometown since I was born and I am well acquainted with everything around me. But studying abroad means that you need to abandon all your friends, your family and the experience of life you accumulated for so many years. Moving to a strange city with people all speaking a totally different language should be a scary thing for every single person. Because of the time difference, my friends and family members are still studying or working when I am going to bed, and that leaves a space for loneliness to invade my heart. Those students in my school all have their best friends they know since they were kids, my host family has their relatives in different regions of New Zealand and even the cat in our house will never give up to fight with the black-white fat cat next door who comes to visit our house from time to time. Every people around me now has inextricable links with this land, and every creature has their roots deep into this ground. But for me, I'm just like an aimless seashell floating with the tides. In a disparate world, I feel that: I don't belong to here. So what I should do is to patiently observe where I live and try to make as many links to it as possible. For instance, I should be grateful to the beautiful night sky full of stars which I can see no more in my hometown and I should feel being accepted by a friendly smile on a pedestrian's face. If I can't change the place I live currently, I can just try my best to become a part of it so that loneliness deep inside can never bring me down.

Despite the experience of studying abroad, there is a common mistake which I think that most of the teenagers will make. I used to think that the quantity of friends is more important than the quality of friends. "The quality of our relationships is likely to get diluted if we rely on social-media updates for keeping connected with everyone and don't make time for one-on-one connection." This explains why I think social media is only the very basic tool of not being lonely. You can't expect a friend to do you a favour unconditionally by only double tapping the pictures he or she shares, but not chatting with them individually regularly. So the way to use social media is particularly crucial. If we just spend our time keeping an eye on what they share, then it's meaningless social contact because you are not really responding to your friends. You need to get closer to show your care to your friend and you should put emphasis on those true friends who have strong empathy to feel being understood. A handful of good friends are enough to make us no longer feel isolated at all in the rest of our life. And here is my favourite viewpoint in this article. "It takes energy to maintain relationships and most of us aren't putting in enough effort." A friendship does require work and immense attention and is just like raising an orchid. It's so precious and little things do matter to its life or death.

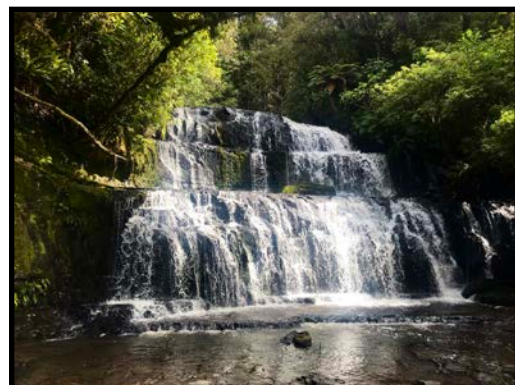
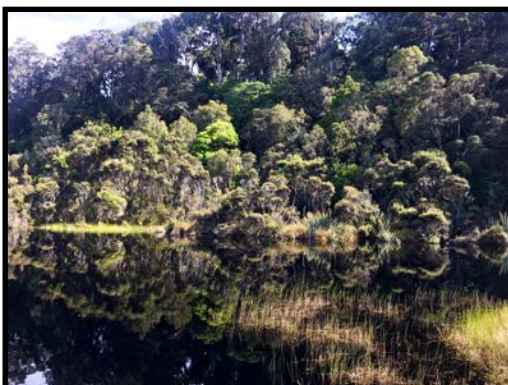
Last but not least, I think I haven't spent enough time communicating with myself. We are born and die with bringing nothing with us. To be honest, we are meant to be lonely and no one can be there for us for a whole lifetime. But as social animals, we reject loneliness which is a factor that affects our psychological and physical health. This kind of complex emotion is really a conflict inside our soul. In my opinion, we shouldn't only pursue external stimulus like parties with friends to remind our brain that we are not alone, but we should also be able to talk with ourselves to figure out how we really feel and what kind of stuff we really need. If there's no appropriate way to share our feeling or nobody can understand you, you should be capable to deal it by your own because no one knows better about you than yourself. Regulation of negative emotions is vital and it's what we need to learn in the rest of our life because we have to face any kind of difficulty alone in most situations.

Loneliness is never a terrible and irreversible feeling, it's just as simple as what everybody will usually feel. This article gives me great courage to confront my loneliness positively and it alerts me that loneliness can also affect our health profoundly. I hope I can cope with all my emotion wisely because I am the master of my own emotion myself.

### **International Programme by Monja Rinke**

I really enjoyed the international program. We did a lot of interesting and exciting things. For example the one day trip to the Catlins. We visited many beautiful places, like a lighthouse or waterfalls. For dinner I had a very delicious burger at the Whistling Frog where we also slept. In the evening we went to see a waterfall and some glowworms. We actually saw some of them. It was really awesome.

On the last day of the program we went to the Otago Museum. I really liked the place with the butterflies there. And the end we went to the planetarium where we watched a little film. It was great!



### International Programme by Felicitas Höfermann

The international programme in November was much fun. My favourite activity so far was the Catlins overnight trip with Ms Young and Ms Ward. It was really fun to travel in the car to the different sites. We could talk, sing and play games.

The places we visited were very beautiful, for example a cave at the beach, Nugget Point and the petrified forest. We also saw lots of seals. We stayed in huts at the Whistling Frog cafe, where we ate really yummy dinner. My friends and me all ate a vegetarian pasta and we all had ice cream for dessert. After dinner we visited waterfalls with the van, which were really beautiful, and we saw lots of tiny glowworms. That was a magical experience.

The next day we visited some other sites which were really nice as well. All in all it was a really funny trip and we saw very much of the beautiful Catlins!



### Book Writing & Reading & Donating

In week seven, some classes wrote children's first counting books then went to an early childhood centre to read their books. The books were then donated to the centre.



### **Term 3 Academic Achievers**

English Language:

Elementary: Rahaf Al Hassan

Intermediate: Intermediate: Reshma Singh

Senior: Elaina Yang

10 Music - Hermione Hai

11 Textiles Tech: Starry Xiao

11 Chinese: Muychheng Oeng

12 English Literacy: Jessy Xie

13 Statistics: Muychheng Oeng

13 Calculus: Rose Li

13 Accounting: Echo Hu

12 Business Studies: Lynn Teng

13 Chinese: Pear Sae-Lee

### **Australian Languages Competition**

High Distinction: Sherry Ye (Japanese), Lynn Teng (Japanese)

Credit: Sara Taha (French), Pear Sae-lee (Chinese)

### **Speech New Zealand Oral Communication for ESOL**

#### Distinction Grades

Introductory Level: Sulafa Al Khalil, Halima Al Naes

Foundation Level: Maram Aboud Agha, Aya Elyassin, Akina Fukaya, Huda Haroura, Sara Tsukada

Bridging Level: Nada Haroura, Wafaa Haroura, Fatima Omidwar

Intermediate Level: Well Chomchoei, Will Chomchoei, Lindsay Hu, Jasmine Liu, Hathaway Wang, Starry Xiao, Elaina Yang, Fenny Zhang

Senior Level: Lynn Teng, Teresa Wang

### **Cultural & Scholar Blues**

Certificates:

Anna Cho (Music-instrumental & Enviroschools)

Annsen Chan (choir)

Blues:

Muychheng Oeng (Enviroschools)

Louise Lin (Enviroschools)

Lynn Teng (Scholar)

Sherry Ye (Scholar)

### **INTERNATIONAL & ELLS EVENING**

Good evening everyone. Thank you very much for coming and we would like to welcome you to our annual international and English language evening where we celebrate the wonderful achievements of our international students and English language learners.

We are very proud of our school's traditions, identity and values. Demographics around the world have been changing as the number of international fee-payers, migrants and former refugees has increased, greatly enriching our school's diversity. Everybody is able to learn more about people of the world and how our world is changing.



This year our international students and English language learners come from Japan, Thailand, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Germany, Vietnam, Cambodia, Argentina, Samoa, India, and Syria. The international room comes alive with the diverse languages that our students can speak. We are very pleased at how well they warmly welcome and take care of new students. Many students make lifelong friends and visit each other later in life.



These students show tremendous resilience with all the changes they experience by moving to, living and studying in another country, especially in another language. English may be our students' second or third or fourth language. Immense commitment and determination to cope and succeed in school are required in abundance, and many even go on to achieve their NCEA levels with Merit or Excellence endorsements.

Another source of pride for our school is how much our international students welcome the academic, cultural and sporting activity opportunities provided. The students and their families are impressed by this and are very pleased for their daughters to continue with their activity from home or to try something completely new. Such experiences can spark an interest or create a passion that the students can follow in future studies.



Being a part of the lives of our international and English language learner students, and seeing their development in personal and educational matters is very rewarding. We feel privileged to be able to be a part of this important stage in their lives. We would like to thank the students and their families for choosing to come to New Zealand, and to our fine school. We also need to extend our gratitude to the caring and loving host families who welcome the girls into their homes and their lives.

## English Language Awards

Elementary: Rahaf Al Hassan, Rahaf Al Hussein, Rania Allo

Intermediate: Wafaa Haroura, Michiko Hanyu, Vicky Cui


Senior: Jasmine Liu, Sherry Ye, Fenny Zhang


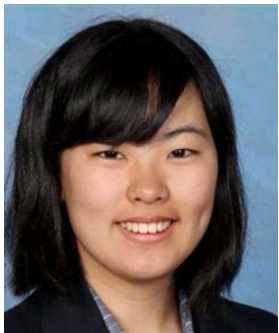



Rahaf Al Hussein and Wafaa Haroura with Mrs Boomer: English Language prize winners.





## Leavers Term 4




Year 10	
<p><b>Lara Baldoncini</b></p> 	<p>Lara started at OGHS at the end of February this year and has been living in Dunedin with her family. She has fit in well to our style of school here and we are sad to see her leave. All of her teachers have made some positive comments about Lara as she has been a fantastic international student. Her teachers and classmates are going to really miss her as she has applied herself in all the subjects, worked well with other students, and impressed those who have worked with her. Doing all this at such a high and positive level in another language is a tribute to her academic ability and attitude. We wish Lara all the very best in her future studies which will undoubtedly be very impressive.</p>

Year 11	
<p><b>Felicitas Hofermann</b></p> 	<p>Fe only started with us in July and I cannot believe it is time for her to leave us. She has embraced the opportunities made available to her regarding subjects and activities, and made the most of her international education experience. She has taken subjects not available to her in Germany such as hard materials, art, textiles and outdoor education. We also had fun together in the September international programme as we discovered places around Dunedin. We wish Felicitas all the best for her return to Germany and hope she comes back to Dunedin for a visit.</p>
<p><b>Akina Fukaya</b></p> 	<p>Akina is the only student from her school, Edogawa in Tokyo, Japan, and has been here for all of this year. She has been studying a range of subjects from art to drama to outdoor education. It is great when international students choose drama as it can really be something they have never done and out of their comfort zone, and Akina should be commended for doing so. She has also had some amazing experiences in the wilderness in outdoor education. We hope Akina has enjoyed her year with us and wish her well for her future back in Japan.</p>




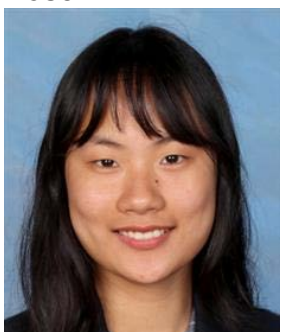
<p><b>Michiko Hanyu</b></p> 	<p>Michiko is another Japanese student who is just here for this year, and she has had a very good year. These are some of the adjectives her teachers have used to describe her: delightful, diligent, positive, wonderful, and outstanding. Her teachers have thoroughly enjoyed having her in their classes and said it has been an honour to teach her. In English language, we have been doing interaction unit standards and they have had to discuss their school life. Michiko has always said outdoor education is her favourite subject, that mountain biking has been the best activity, and that she recommends other students to take this subject. We hope Michiko has taken as much out of this year as we have having her in our school. She has upheld our school values and been a fantastic international student. All the best in the future.</p>
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<p><b>Year 12</b></p>	
<p><b>Monja Rinke</b></p> 	<p>Monja is one of our new German students from July and is concluding her period of study with us. She is quiet and reserved student who has been studying Spanish, textiles, English, mathematics, history and chemistry. She has shown enthusiasm in textiles and learning new skills with the ultimate aim of completing a skirt. Hopefully, Monja will return home with some new skills and New Zealand experiences. All the best for future studies.</p>

<p><b>Year 13</b></p>	
<p><b>Ariane Arman</b></p> 	<p>I first met Ariane and her father at our open night in 2016. It was somewhat different as she was already a senior student who had come to look at our school. We are very pleased that she and her family chose to come here as we have thoroughly enjoyed having her be a part of our school and the international community as she engages with a diverse range of students and has a positive attitude to everything she does. Ariane's contribution to Enviroschools has also been greatly appreciated.</p>

<p><b>Yi Lou</b></p> 	<p>Yi has had all her high school with us and is a determined and diligent student who works quietly and unassumingly on her work. Yi was an outstanding Peer Support leader for her whanau class this year. She was reliable, committed and enthusiastic in helping to lead a programme for the Year Nines to support their transition to secondary school. She was always willing to help and go that extra mile, including changing whanau classes in order to fulfill her role as Peer Support leader.</p> <p>During her time at OGHS, Yi has been involved in sports, mainly badminton, been part of Enviroschools for three years, and a junior maths tutor. She has won many awards over the years for her studies and community service. Yi is a kind, considerate and friendly young woman. She always demonstrates respect and is highly regarded by her peers as an honest, reliable and loyal person. Yi relates well to both her peers and adults, showing respect and integrity.</p> <p>I am sure Yi will continue to be so successful in her studies and continue to demonstrate these fine values. All the best.</p>
<p><b>Jiji Chokvareeporn</b></p> 	<p>Jiji started here in the second term of year 9. Probably due to her name, some thought she may have needed to be in ESOL class but she was only there for a few lessons before we realised that was an unnecessary place for her. All through her time at school, Jiji has been very active in sports, been part of Enviroschools for three years, a school librarian, and been a Tech-angel who helps people, mainly teachers, with all the new technology we have been increasingly using. She has helped me at this evening for a couple of years as she has a far greater understanding than I do.</p> <p>Along with all those wonderful activities and help, Jiji has excelled in her studies. She has attained both NCEA levels 1 and 2 with excellence and has received a Leaders of Tomorrow with Distinction scholarship from university. Jiji's future is bright and we are excited to know what she will do in the future. Keep up the amazing work!</p>
<p><b>Jessica Song</b></p> 	<p>Jessica started here in July of Year 11 and this year has been studying accounting, chemistry, English literacy, mathematics with calculus, and physics. Although Jessica hasn't joined any school activities, she has been a valued part of our international community and has helped new students to our school. We wish her well for her future.</p>



<p><b>Teresa Ning</b></p> 	<p>Teresa started here last year and in her first year was able to get NCEA Level 2 which is very good. This year, Teresa is taking accounting, chemistry, English literacy, and mathematics with statistics. She is a quiet and independent worker in class and has maintained a pleasing level of achievement. We look forward to hearing what she does in the future. All the best.</p>
<p><b>Miko Chu</b></p> 	<p>Miko started here half way through Year 10 and made some nice friends in the English language class and with other internationals throughout her time with us. This year, her course of study has included chemistry, economics, English literacy, mathematics with calculus, and physics. Miko is a quiet student developing independent study skills. She sets goals to maintain her standards and works to manage her time for academic work. Miko is strong-willed and we hope she will attain the goals she has set for herself in the future. All the best.</p>
<p><b>Annie He</b></p> 	<p>Annie started her OGHS studies in March 2015 when she was in Year 10. Annie is a friendly young woman with a great sense of humour who works well with her peers. She has well developed independent learning habits and has attained NCEA Levels 1 and 2 with Merit, and received an academic achievement award for digital technology. This year, Annie's course selection shows her varied interests and skills. She is taking chemistry, design and visual communication, digital technology, English, and calculus. The teachers have enjoyed teaching Annie over the years and look forward to hearing about her future endeavours.</p>
<p><b>Rose Li</b></p> 	<p>Rose came with Annie and they first lived together in Year 10. She is determined and focussed on her learning making the most of all her learning opportunities. She achieved NCEA Level 2 with a Merit endorsement. Rose is good at working with a variety of people as she is a good listener and cheerfully assists others in the pursuit of their goals. At the same time, she is capable of working independently, showing strong self-motivation. Rose is a caring person and shows great sensitivity in her interpersonal relationships. I am sure Rose will move on to tertiary studies and use the skills she has gained at OGHS. Well done, Rose.</p>

<p><b>Echo Hu</b></p> 	<p>Echo came to us in July of 2015. During her time here, Echo has developed a positive approach to her learning and independent study skills. She has a curious mind and shows persistence and determination in following through investigations. Echo sets herself very high goals and strives to achieve them, and applies herself well to all learning tasks. She is considered in her approach to study, has great initiative and works extremely well independently. Echo has received academic awards during her years with us and she should be proud of what she has achieved so far. With the solid base of education she has attained so far, Echo should continue to be successful in university and we look forward to seeing what she becomes in the future.</p>
<p><b>Drea Gong</b></p> 	<p>Drea came to us from a New Zealand school further up north at the start of Year 11. She quickly became immersed in school life and made friends with many people. I remember Kiwi girls walking past D41 and saying, "There's Drea!". Drea has positive and approachable face that invites people to speak to her and this has helped her become immersed in the wider school life at OGHS. Last year at the school fair's fashion parade, Drea was the make-up master applying make-up for the Chinese girls who were taking part in their traditional dress. Drea was once a very keen ice hockey player until a very unfortunate incident saw her fall to the ice and break her ankle. She had such determination in her eyes when she was chasing the puck and I was sad when she was unable to continue playing. Drea has a creative talent and has been studying art painting, art photography, textiles, and English. Last year, she made her beautiful blue dress for the Year 12 formal, and received awards for textiles and a dean's commendation. Drea also attained NCEA Level 2 with Merit. With Drea's many talents and abilities we have no doubt that she will be creating some amazing work somewhere in the world, and we can't wait to find out what that is. Great work, Drea!</p>
<p><b>Charlotte Hou</b></p> 	<p>Charlotte has worked extremely diligently since she started here at the beginning of 2016. Although unassuming and modest, Charlotte is competent, capable, trustworthy and reliable in all she does. She is always courteous and helpful, showing respect for others and integrity in her approach to all things. Charlotte has a great sense of humour, and her warm and caring nature make her valued amongst her peers. She has a tough academic load this year by taking chemistry, physics, economics, calculus, and statistics, yet has produced many Excellence and Merit grades already. It has been a real pleasure having Charlotte part of our school and international community, and we value the contributions she has made. We would like to keep in touch so we know what great things Charlotte will do in the future. Well done on such positive and successful high school life.</p>

### Radi Li



Radi has done all of her senior high school years with us. She is an amiable young woman with good social skills and a great sense of humor. She is unfailingly honest, reliable and respectful of others. Radi has also been fantastic at helping new international students settle into school and life in Dunedin. She has been an integral part of our international volleyball team. Radi has fine academic skills. In Year 11, she gained NCEA Level 1 with a Merit endorsement, and in Year 12, gained NCEA Level 2 with an Excellence endorsement. She gained prizes for English language, accounting, and economics. We have thoroughly enjoyed Radi's presence and her joy of life, and how she has displayed her enthusiasm and the school's values. Wherever the road may lead Radi, I am sure she will be on it with laughter and a great amount of commitment and success.

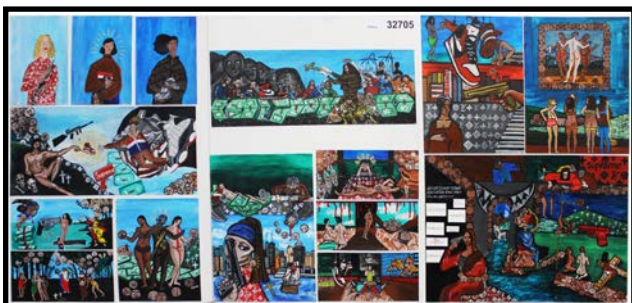
### Anna Cho



Anna is a motivated and hard working student. She has an enquiring mind and a natural curiosity that allows her to question concepts intensively. Anna strives to understand concepts to allow her to apply them at a higher level. She works well independently but she is also an involved and contributing member of any group of her peers.

Even though she has had a very full academic workload, Anna has fully immersed herself in the life of the school and in working for the wider good. She is involved with our school environment group, with Amnesty International, is a librarian, a valued member of the school orchestra, a health representative for her class, has tutored junior students in mathematics, and shared Korean culture through belonging to the K-Pop Club! She has also been an enthusiastic participant in curling, badminton and squash. Her leadership is of the quiet but highly effective kind, such as the initiative she has shown when organizing and participating in chemistry and engineering events with her peers. In EnviroSchools, Mrs Chapman appreciates Anna's ability to work with others in the group, her reliability and her thorough approach to all she does. Anna is a fine role model for all our younger international students in particular, especially in her strong friendships with students from different countries and backgrounds.

Anna has been offered scholarships to Canterbury and Otago universities and has been applying to more in Korea. She will have a difficult time deciding where she will study, but wherever that may be, we are sure it will be successful and they will value all that she has to offer.



Drea Gong: Year 13 Painting Folio



Teresa Wang: Year 12 Painting Folio



### Muychheng Oeng



Muychheng is another one of our amazing young citizens at our school. Since she arrived at the beginning of 2017, Muychheng has been a student who exemplifies generosity in the ways she uses her many skills for the benefit of others. She shows great integrity, thoughtfulness, and idealism, and has outstanding academic abilities. She has been a strong member of our Enviroschools group.

Muychheng is the only Otago Girls' High School student from Cambodia, and so reaches out to all students of all cultures and backgrounds. She is a peer support leader, tutors junior students, and is also generous in helping our many Syrian refugee students with their homework club after school every week for at least an hour. Other students often go to her for academic advice!

Muychheng's outstanding commitment to her community was officially recognised in our school prize-giving last year where she was awarded a Global Leadership Award.

She is a self-motivated young woman who wants to make a difference to her world. Her independence, experiences, knowledge and skills will take her far and we look forward to seeing her development.

### Louise Lin



I am not sure where to start with Louise as she has been a phenomenal student and we are extremely lucky to have her as our OGHS student. Since Louise started here, she has been totally immersed in her passion for her studies, sports, and community. She has won numerous awards for her academic ability and community work. Louise has been awarded an academic excellence entrance scholarship from Otago University. I am sure there will be more offers presented to her. I have taken some information from a letter of recommendation Dr Phillips wrote for Louise.

Louise is a gifted and highly academic student of exceptional ability. Louise is an exceptional student of the highest order. She distinguishes herself from other students in her willingness to always take the learning to the next level, to not settle for simple explanations and to delve deeper. Louise is an outside the square thinker who is not afraid to challenge orthodox ideas to extend herself and propel her learning forward to a higher level. Her writing and public speaking show a level of sophistication well beyond her years. Many of Louise's achievements outside the classroom show her desire to make connections between classroom learning and real world concepts.

Louise relates extremely well to both her peers and adults on staff. Her colleagues respect her abilities and her kind caring nature. She is a highly intelligent young woman and enjoys aiding others in their learning. Louise works skilfully in a team environment and has made many friends in her time at Otago Girls' High School. She has the academic drive to lead others and her strong interpersonal skills make Louise an excellent communicator and collaborator. Louise has been a leading member of the schools environment group and has been personally responsible for analysing the soil in the schools new gardens using spectroscopic techniques at Otago University. This work has been done in her own time after school with Louise showing she has excellent practical science research skills.

**Snow  
Martpunyachon**



Snow has been here since the start of year 10 is completing her fourth year with us. She has been a real integral part of not only our international department, but also the school. She has been involved in many school activities over the years and has joined fellow internationals in our Enviroschools group. In her subjects, Snow works independently and diligently to master any necessary skills and concepts, seeking help when necessary. She is determined to succeed and is able to focus on her goals. In NCEA, she got endorsements for Merit in Level 1, and Excellence in Level 2. She has a big workload this year with biology, chemistry, physics, economics, calculus, and English. Keeping up with these subjects and staying involved in clubs is a real testament to Snow's attitude and aptitude. Snow's contributions to our school have been immense and we shall miss her greatly.

**Pear Sae-Lee**



Pear Sae-Lee is our International Prefect and a truly valued student at Otago Girls' High School. Pear is the international student who has been at our school the longest and demonstrates extremely well our core values of positivity, integrity, and respect.

Pear started at Otago Girls' High School in the last part of Year 9 in 2014, and since that time she has impressed all those around her. As a senior student, Pear believes the best leadership is displayed by being a good role model for all students and positively working well with others, and she has continually done this. As well as being selected as the International Prefect, Pear has been selected to be a whanau support who helps juniors and runs the class. She has also been a school librarian, and been involved in Enviroschools and the school council. Her willingness to be involved and help others to foster positive learning experiences at our school is to be commended.

Pear not only thrives in study and leadership but also in sports. Sports are a significant part of her life as they help her to manage her time, to work well with others, and to be a good captain. During her time at Otago Girls' High School, Pear has been playing sports both competitively and socially.

Pear is an exemplary young woman and it has been wonderful to see her grow and mature into such a fine person. She is the epitome of our school's values and is the most positive student I know, as is shown in her always-ready smile. Pear is a great role model to all our international and New Zealand students as she puts no barriers between others and herself, and is ready to help and befriend all.

Pear has outstanding personal integrity, academic ability, a strong work ethic, fine social skills, and, importantly, deep thoughtfulness and ethical awareness. Pear has all the attributes to be successful at university and beyond, and I wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

### **International Prefect: Pear Sae-lee**

Good evening everyone! Tonight is the night where we celebrate the diversity of all cultures here at Otago Girls' High School. I'm Pear Thitapa Sae-Lee and I come from Thailand. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to become the International Prefect this year. I have been studying at Otago Girls' since October 2014.

When I first came to NZ, I was extremely shy as a new student in an all girls school. I was nervous, but excited at the same time since I was the only international student amongst all the year 9's. Everything here is totally different in terms of culture, food, language, the school system and the freezing cold weather here in Dunedin.



Thankfully, Mrs Boomer helped me out by helping me find a Kiwi buddy, her name is Eden and we are still friends to this day. Everyone was helping me out with every single thing and this helped me to adapt to my new life as a Kiwi.

During my high school years, I have loved playing sports; therefore I have always been a part of many school sports. For example netball, badminton, basketball, handball and volleyball. Being involved in these sports helped me to develop skills such as teamwork and building new friendships.

When I was in year 10, we played netball in our PE class and one of my friends, Brianna, asked me to go to netball trials with her. And yes, I took that opportunity. It was so different from what we played during PE because it was so competitive but it was great fun. Another sport that I played, basketball, was one of my favourite sports. Even though our basketball team was not the best, we developed a good relationship with each other. I really enjoyed my time playing these sports, and this taught me that the things you do is what matters the most.

Otago Girls' has provided us with the opportunity to try something different, and this allowed us to step out of our comfort zones, which was important when it came to settling into our new environment.



Watching the year 13 medley was one of my personal highlights when I first arrived here. Afterwards, as soon as I got back home, I called my parents and told them "I will stay here until year 13 because I found it really enjoyable." And here I am, Pear Sae-Lee but a new version of me.

I was lucky enough to meet my host family before I came to NZ, which is rare for us as international students. My host family is a very important part of my experience here in NZ. They are the ones



who make this experience possible by giving me the opportunity to learn more about Kiwi culture like having fish and chips and improving my English and leadership skills that will serve me throughout my life. Thank you for taking care of me, Robyn and Peter.

During my time in New Zealand, it has made me more open-minded because I learnt more about many different cultures. I also learnt how to solve problems by myself and if I needed help, I wasn't scared to ask for help. I made the most of my time in New Zealand by being involved in school activities and challenging myself by trying new things that were out of my comfort zones to become a more independent young woman.

The best thing about Otago Girls' is the community here; I have many amazing staff and teachers as well as my friends. These people have supported me through my journey and I couldn't ask for any better staff/teachers and friends than I have made here at Otago Girls'. I remembered Mrs Millar had always called me "Perfect Pear," which I am not because nobody is perfect but sure I will take it. Thanks Dr.Phil for making dad jokes during chemistry, I will miss it so much. Thank you, Mrs Gordon for always being hard working and willing to teach every now and then. Thank you, Ms Dunn for telling us many cool stories. Thank you, Mr McGowan for making us potato scones, they were really good. Thank you, Ms Hutton for being so positive. Thank you, Mr Edmunds and Pu Laoshi for helping me every step of the way. Thank you to Ms Miller for giving the opportunity to be the international prefect here at Otago Girls'; it has been an honour.

One important thing Otago Girls' has taught me is that you don't need to be perfect but being the best version of yourself is the best thing that anyone could ask for.



On behalf of all international students, I would like to thank everyone for the kindness and compassion towards us, especially, our international staff, Mrs Stephenson, Mrs Boomer, Mrs Chapman, Ms Taylor and Ms Thomson.



Lastly, goodbye for now everyone. My long journey has come to an end for the beginning of another new journey. I hope to see you again sometime in the future.

## **2018 OGHS Prize Winners (awarded Tuesday 4 December)**

### DISTINCTIONS

Fuzheng Zhang	Year 9 English Language
Well Chomchoei	Year 10 German
Nagham Ghazzoul	Year 10 English Language
Hermione Hai	Year 10 Mathematics
Chris Huynh	Year 11 Accounting
Dain Kim	Year 11 Japanese
Valerie Lu	Year 12 English Literacy
Lynn Teng	Year 12 Japanese
Harlyn Tran	Year 12 Accounting, Business Studies, Mathematics
Echo Hu	Year 13 Accounting
Louise Lin	Year 13 Geography, Mathematics with Calculus
Muychheng Oeng	Year 11 Mandarin
Pear Sae-Lee	Year 13 Mandarin

### COMMENDATIONS

Wafaa Haroura	Year 10 English Language
Lara Baldoncini	Year 10 Mathematics
Well Chomchoei	Year 10 Art, English Language, Mathematics
Annsen Chan	Year 11 Mandarin
Michiko Hanyu	Year 11 English Language
Harlyn Tran	Year 12 English, Tourism
Jasmine Liu	Year 12 Mathematics
Hathaway Wang	Year 12 Chemistry, English Literacy
Starry Xiao	Year 12 Mathematics
Monica Zhang	Year 12 Mandarin
Echo Hu	Year 13 Mathematics with Calculus
Louise Lin	Year 13 Biology, Chemistry, English, Music, Physics
Muychheng Oeng	Year 13 English, Geography, Physics
Pear Sae-Lee	Year 13 Chemistry
Radi Li	Year 13 Mathematics with Calculus
Snow Martpunyachon	Year 13 Chemistry, Mathematics with Calculus

### SPECIAL PRIZES

Linda Hu	Prize for the Most Successful Student in a Mathematics Competition
Echo Hu	The Forsyth Barr CETA Medal for Commerce

Pear Sae-Lee	International Award for the International Student who has made the greatest contribution to international understanding
	International Prefect Award
Wafaa Haroura	Year 10 Learmonth Whyte Dalrymple Prize for Leadership in Benjamin House
Muychheng Oeng	Year 13 Learmonth Whyte Dalrymple Prize for Leadership in Cruickshank House
Harlyn Tran	2019 International Prefect

### PRESTIGE PRIZES

Anna Cho	Tertiary Scholarships between \$5,000 and \$45,000
Louise Lin	Tertiary Scholarships between \$5,000 and \$45,000
Muychheng Oeng	Tertiary Scholarships between \$5,000 and \$45,000
Pear Sae-Lee	Tertiary Scholarships between \$5,000 and \$45,000
Louise Lin	5th Aggregate

### **International Department by Mrs Stephenson**

We welcome Natalya Latysheva to our team. Natalya has settled in well and is adjusting to the varied daily challenges we encounter in our department. She is going to visit all host families over the next few months so she can introduce herself properly. She is a very fast learner and her gentle nature is already endearing her to our students.

#### **Term 1 2019 Start Dates**

January 28	Senior Course Confirmation	(9:15 - 2:00)
	Peer Support Training	(1:30 - 4:00)
January 29	Senior Course Confirmation	(10:00 - 2:00)
	Peer Support Training	(1:30 - 3:30)
January 30	Teacher Only Day	
January 31	Year 9	(9:00)
	Year 10 (11:00)	
	Internationals	(11:30)
	Peer Support Leaders	
February 1	Full School	(9:00)
	Assembly P3	
	House Elections	
	BBQ Lunch	
	PB4L Activities P5	

#### **Term Dates 2019**

Term 1	28 January	until	12 April
Term 2	29 April	until	5 July
Term 3	22 July	until	27 September
Term 4	14 October	until	12 December



#### **Emergency Contact**

In case of an emergency only, please contact:

December 9 - December 13	Linda Miller 027 625 9006
December 14 - December 31	Alison Stephenson 027 443 9912
January 1 - January 5	Linda Miller 027 625 9006
January 6 - January 29	Katherine Boomer 027 446 3539