



Cover Story x 6 Articles

Cover Story: Discovering the beauty in life through photography in New Taipei City schools

The Alliance Cultural Foundation (ACF) has been running A New Vista for Children, a photography program for rural schools in Huatung since 2012, holding three exhibitions and inspiring many to volunteer with rural children. In 2017, the program was extended to six remote schools in New Taipei City. These schools have less than a hundred students, many of whom are children of new immigrants. The camera is used as a teaching tool to preserve memories for their childhood and surroundings, and the photography program is a platform for them to grow and shine beyond the usual school curriculum. It has benefitted students with special needs and learning difficulties with self-expression. [Read more.](#)

Volunteers interview for the 9th annual Huatung English Camp



Interviews for potential volunteers of 2018 Huatung English Camp were held at the BigByte campus on 25 February for fifty-three tertiary students. In four teams, they were quizzed on potential scenarios at the camp through themed conversations and exposed to current affairs discussions. They took turns with domino games, displaying coordination, creativity and cooperation skills, and underwent English interviews with foreign teachers. Prospective volunteers shared that the interviews were not competitive but collaborative; and regardless of outcome, they were glad to have met partners with similar ideals and to have learnt from each other in this brief encounter.

Ci-Xin Waldorf School students reflect on 3-week internship at ACF

Two second-year high-school students from Ci-Xin Waldorf School, Chang Yuen-rong and Yu Tsai-rou, interned at ACF's Taipei office in January. They drew on cards to summarize what they had gone through in three weeks. Despite being nervous at the start, the interns said they have grown through involvement in projects with Taiwan Connection and photography immersion classes for remote schools, understanding the motives and processes within. They are thankful to everyone who had offered advice, discussion and a listening ear. The memorable internship with ACF was where their dreams which budded in school took flight in reality.





Cherishing affinities: School reopens at Junyi School of Innovation

Junyi reopened on the sixth day of the Lunar New Year on 21 February. The year began with lantern riddles as part of the reopening ceremony. Chair Yen encouraged the students to view Junyi as a learning paradise and to uncover their own unique strengths through school projects. Chair Yen gave each student red packets, designed by its very own fifth-grader, as a blessing. Chair Yen's blessings on the packets rhymed with the school's values, hoping that the students will cherish affinities formed at Junyi.

Taiwan Connection to stage Music Festival in 2018

The 2018 Taiwan Connection (TC) Music Festival will also see the group's premiere international performance, with internationally renowned musicians from New York, Lyon, Seoul, Kansas. They include Violinist Marc Danel, Violists Paul Neubauer and Scott Lee, as well as Cellists Keith Robinson and Sung-Won Yang. They will perform Brahms: Strings Sextets Nos. 1 & 2.

TC will also stage a series of performances, in symphony manner, presenting Mendelssohn Fingal's Cave Overture, Béla Bartók's Divertimento and Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony





Sharestart Lecturers' Annual Get-together

The Sharestart community and ACF held the Sharestart Lecturers' Annual Get-together on 9-12 February. Long-term supporters of the flipped classroom method discussed how to introduce sharestart philosophy transformations to more teachers in their classroom. Founder Chang Hui-cheng shared on the vision and goals of Sharestart, and also announce this year's plans to promote education reform around Taiwan. Teacher Li Chung-chien also led the Satir Workshop where an interactive dialogue took the lecturers on a self-awareness journey of emotional discovery and self-care

Sci-Flipper teachers undergo "Life of Pi" experiential training

The Sci-Flipper (SF) educators' community led by Teacher Chung Ching-hung conducted its 21st experiential training with Miaoli's Dalun Junior High. Themed "Life of Pi", the training took place on 27 January. Focused on problem-solving as one of the 2019 Curriculum Core Values, the educators enjoyed the challenge of gathering firewood to make a fire. Teacher Chung later explained PBL and its major steps of encountering the problem, planning, independent learning, small group discussions, presentation of findings, and lastly conclusion and evaluation. In cross-disciplinary teams, the educators co-prepped curriculum to be rolled out next semester.



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