

TAEJON CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# VIEWS & VISIONS

FALL/WINTER 2002

★★★★

VOLUME 7 - NUMBER 2

## TCIS BEGINS NEW PARTNERSHIP

— Sister School Agreement Signed with Yanbian Foreign Language College

**A** trip to see the Tumen River, the northern North Korea border area, and legendary Paektu mountain by TCIS teachers and students could be part of the future. Taejon Christian International School has signed a sister schools partnership/relationship agreement with Yanji Foreign Languages College (YFLC) of Yanji, China. Yanji is located in the Yanbian autonomous region of extreme northeastern China. It is a province heavily populated by ethnic Korean people. Many of the students in the college are ethnic Korean, Korean speaking, but Chinese citizens. They also usually speak fluent Mandarin and are learning English at the college. Through mutual friends, Yanji Foreign Languages College and TCIS came to be in contact with one another, and a relationship was established between the two school administrations. The college administration visited TCIS this fall and agreed upon the following sister school collaborative actions in the future: (1) possible visit by TCIS faculty to Yanji to provide professional training to college faculty and other English teachers in Chinese schools in the province; (2) possible visit by YFLC faculty members to TCIS to observe an American style international school in action and to share about education strategies in China; (3) possible visit by TCIS students to Yanji to explore cultural and geographical sites of interest in that region of China; (4) possible visit by a YFLC student for a short exchange experience at TCIS; and (5) continued consultation and leadership development by TCIS administration with the YFLC leadership team.



Jennifer Li, President of YFLC, and her husband, Charles, receive a commemorative plaque from Dr. Thomas Penland and Mr. Jae Soon Choi

We believe our faculty and students have much to share and much to learn from this partnership. The two schools have agreed to move slowly in actualizing this partnership to assure that each step taken is guaranteed to be successful and to maximize the benefits for both institutions. This is another example of how TCIS is taking advantage of its location, programs, and vision to provide our school community with an educational experience that is unique, culturally comprehensive, and dynamic. Continue in the future to look for more information regarding the actualization of this partnership in the lives of our faculty and students.



Mr. Tim Chung, 12th Grader, is congratulated by Dr. Bromenschenkel, secondary principal, and Mrs. Jane Langdon, counselor, for being named a National Merit Commended Scholar

## TCIS STUDENT NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR

TCIS is proud to announce that Tim Chung has earned the distinction of being named a National Merit Commended Scholar. This is an honor that only 34,000 of the 1,300,000 participants can claim. The National Merit Scholarship Program is a privately financed, academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Tim entered the Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), in his junior year, and meeting other participant requirements. His PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores, which are the verbal, math and writing scores, served as an initial screen of the large number of program entrants and were used to designate him as a person worthy of receiving Merit Scholar recognition. As a Commended Scholar, Tim's scores were above the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile of college bound juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT. In recognition of his outstanding ability and potential for academic success in college, he was presented a Certificate of Commendation during a recent TCIS High School Chapel.

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# TCIS TEACHERS ATTEND WEEKLY TRAINING TO GROW PROFESSIONALLY

**W**hy does my secondary school day student come home directly after school on Monday afternoons? Why does my secondary dormitory student have a dorm activity on many Monday afternoons? I am sure these questions must have been asked by some parents this year. The school administration, in consultation with faculty members, decided to reserve Monday afternoons for (1) a protected time for professional development and collaboration for all full-time teachers and (2) an afternoon after a weekend of activities for students to have a chance to rest or get caught up in their homework and projects for the week before them. The Monday afternoons have been scheduled with presentations from guest professional education trainers including the world renowned ESL expert, Dr. Virginia Rojas; presentations from our faculty members, training sessions led by our faculty members, department meetings, and division meetings. Prior to this year, it was almost impossible to have regular department and division meetings with all faculty in attendance. Because some of our teachers are inexperienced and some lack professional certification, the Board of Trustees and school administration feel that regular professional training is very important. Actually, growing professionals are the key to a school of excellence. Therefore, every Monday afternoon you will find our faculty working hard either learning from a world-class professional educator, learning from one another, talking to one another about how to better serve our students, or meeting with one another to further plan more effective strategies to increase student achievement and learning. We also have scheduled throughout the year a few days with either a late start or early dismissal that allow for our faculty to work professionally together. This first semester and last semester a good portion of this time has been targeted toward our school self-study for our WASC accreditation visit next semester.

As stated earlier, not only were Mondays reserved for teacher benefit but also for our secondary students who attend sporting events, retreats, and other activities during the weekend. We felt that having one afternoon a week protected from extra/co-curriculars would assist them in staying up with their academic work and balancing their life between the demands of the curricular program and the extra/co-curricular program. As a side benefit, it has also given time for our dorm families to have time together for dorm activities.

Day students can stay on campus and study in the library after school on Mondays if they need to be there or if they have an extra/co-curricular activity later that evening. However, the school does not provide supervision on the campus for day students except in the library on Mondays and they are expected to leave the campus. I trust that the students are using these afternoons in productive ways, and I hope that parents are more aware of the Monday afternoon schedule and the reasons behind this change at our school.



Noted ESL expert, Dr. Virginia Rojas, working with a TCIS teacher, Mrs. Yon Hee Bok



## VIEWS & VISIONS

*is published each year to update alumni, parents, and friends of events and highlights of Taejon Christian International School.*

We value your comments and suggestions. Views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent the official views of the TCIS administration and Board of Trustees.

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## FIRST PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT CONFERENCES HELD

On November 8, TCIS took another step to improve its academic program and, more specifically, the assessment of its students. Elementary to secondary (Kindergarten to 12th grade) participated in parent-teacher conferences with a unique aspect of involving students in the process. Early impressions are that parents, teachers and even students favor the new format and found it helpful and enlightening. The elementary school experimented with student-lead conferences with students sharing a portfolio of their work and following a pre-arranged check list. Elementary parents and teachers were very pleased with the results and plan to continue developing it for use at the Spring conferences. Some secondary classes may also experiment with student-lead conferences on April 25 date.

## TCIS STRATEGIC GOALS 2002-2003

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the TCIS Strategic Goals for 2002-2003. These goals have been approved by the HAC and Board of Trustees and are the focus of the school for the 2002-2003 school year. Parents and friends of TCIS have expressed an interest in having a copy of these goals.

# TCIS WELCOMES NOTED SPEAKERS

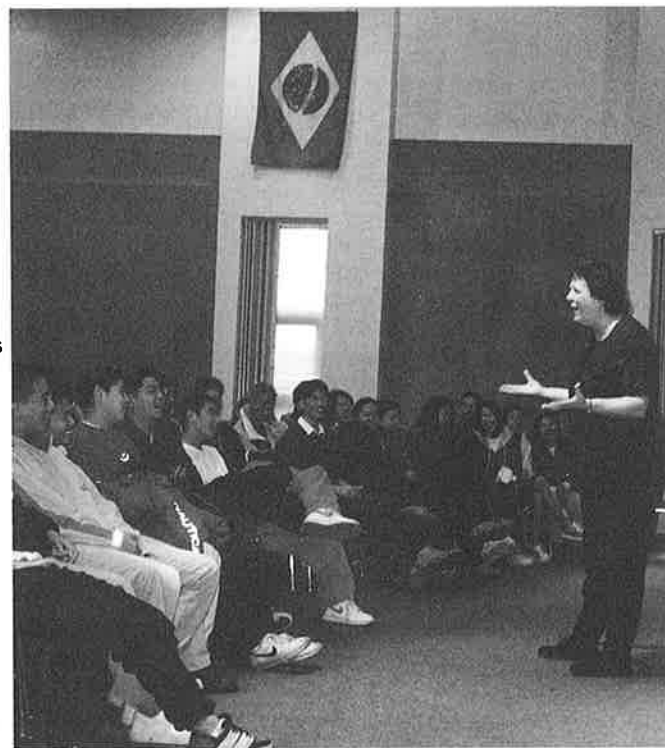
—DR. KATHY KOCH AND LINDA SUE PARK

## Dr. Kathy Koch—Monday, November 4

“What kind of smart are you?,” asked Dr. Kathy Koch of the assembled TCIS students. “Do you hear a song when others cannot or do you see a picture when others only see words on a page?” Dr. Kathy Koch (pronounced “Cook”) founder of Celebrate Kids, Inc. and a former professor of education, recently visited the TCIS campus and shared with our students and teachers that all of us are smart but in different ways. To be more specific, we are all “Eight Kinds of Smart” in lesser or great degrees. We are: 1) Word Smart; 2) Logic Smart; 3) Picture Smart; 4) Music Smart; 5) Body Smart; 6) Nature Smart; 7) People Smart; and 8) Self Smart. In a positive and affirming way Dr. Koch encouraged our students to discover their area of smartness or expertise and to use it for good.

Dr. Koch has spoken to educators, parents, students, and missionaries in eighteen different countries. She has earned three degrees including a Ph.D. in reading and educational psychology from Purdue University. Her professional experience includes seven years as a professor of education, four years as an elementary teacher, three years as a middle school coach and three years as a school board member of a Christian school.

TCIS was very fortunate and blessed to be the only international school in Korea that Dr. Koch visited while in-country. In her one day visit, she thoroughly energized the teachers, staff, and students with her encouraging and motivational talks. Dr. Kathy, as she is best known, is not only an educator, but a Christian educator. She shared with all of us her faith and how as students and teachers we form a team that through our successes we bring glory to God. TCIS hopes to have Dr. Koch back next year to speak to parents and perhaps be a leader in the secondary Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) in 2003.



Dr. Kathy Koch makes an important point to a very engaged and attentive secondary school audience

## Linda Sue Park —Monday, November 11

“The best advice I could give to a young person aspiring to be a writer is to read...read...read. I loved reading ever since I could remember,” Linda Sue Park shared with TCIS middle and high school English classes. “I’d read everything from *Charlotte’s Web*, *Little House on the Prairie* Books, to *Nancy Drew*. If there was nothing else to read, I would read the cereal boxes.”

Linda Sue Park is the author of *A Single Shard*, a story that in 2002 won America’s most prestigious award for children’s literature, the John Newbery Medal. TCIS was recently very honored to host her for a visit to our campus. TCIS students were very interested and eager to meet Linda Sue Park who is Korean-American and the first Asian to win the John Newbery Medal. Ms. Park shared with students how “ideas get her” and how she drew inspiration to write her four most popular published works that revolve around the Korean culture.

Born in Urbana, Illinois, Ms. Park learned much about her Korean heritage from her parents and extensive library research. In 1999, she wrote her first book, *Seesaw Girl*, about a Chosun era girl who yearned to go outside her walled house. Since then she has written about the ancient game of kite fighting in the story, *Kite Fighters*, and the life of a Korean family during the Japanese occupation of Korea, in a story entitled, *When My Name was Keoko*.



Linda Sue Park takes time to autograph a copy of ‘A Single Shard’ as TCIS students, Gina Lee, Sooyoung Hong, and Stephanie Kang look on

### *A Single Shard* —2002 Newbery Medal Winner

This inspiring tale of a young boy’s quest to become a master craftsman of ceramics takes the reader to 12th century Korea, during the Koryo Dynasty. Tree-ear is an orphan boy who has no hope of learning a skill that must be handed down from father to son. Through his relationship with an elderly crippled man, Crane-man, the boy learns integrity and honesty. One day through his efforts he encounters a craftsman and his kindly wife who help him realize his dream.



CHECK OUT THE TCIS WEBSITE AT  
[www.tcis.or.kr](http://www.tcis.or.kr)



## REVIEW OF TCIS FALL SPORTS

The 2002-2003 TCIS athletic year is off to a good start. The highlight of the fall season was the play of our boys' and girls' volleyball teams. The girls' varsity team won its third straight division II conference title and the boys' finished a close second to Seoul Foreign School with a school record 12-2 season! The boys volleyball team came within two games of taking the KAIAC tournament championship and finished in second place. The boys' volleyball coach, Mr. Charlie Swan, was named the KAIAC Coach-of-the-Year! The boys' tennis team managed to place all five of its seeds in the semi-finals of the KAIAC tennis tournament. TCIS's second ever cross-country team had a good exhibition season with many top ten finishes. In addition, Yuya Kato took KAIAC All-Tournament honors. Next year, TCIS will compete in cross-country as a full conference member. In another single season record, fifteen (15) TCIS athletes received KAIAC All-Conference and All-Tournament honors during the fall season.

### ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

- ★ Shun Hao Chang—Volleyball
- ★ Kimberly Daniel—Tennis
- ★ Min Hsu—Volleyball
- ★ Kenny Kim—Volleyball
- ★ Haneul Lee—Tennis
- ★ Eliza Wang—Volleyball
- ★ Cathy Yoo—Volleyball

### ALL-TOURNAMENT HONORS

- ★ Shun Hao Chang—Volleyball & Best Setter
- ★ Min Hsu—Volleyball
- ★ Eugene Kang—Volleyball
- ★ Yuya Kato—Cross-Country
- ★ Kenny Kim—Volleyball
- ★ Cathy Yoo—Volleyball
- ★ Joe Oh—Best Passer—Volleyball

### DIVISION I HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ 2nd Place Conference—Boys' Volleyball (12-2 record)
- ★ 2nd Place Tournament—Boys' Volleyball (3-2 record)

### DIVISION II HIGHLIGHT

- ★ 1st Place Conference—Girls' Volleyball (7-4 record)

### COACH'S AWARD

- ★ Charlie Swan—Boys' Volleyball



TCIS 2002 Boys' Volleyball Team received numerous honors and awards at the KAIAC Tournament



## REVIEW OF TCIS MUSIC CONCERTS



Mr. Mark Compaan directs the Concert Orchestra

On October 17 and 24, TCIS was treated to two excellent and entertaining middle and high school choral and instrumental concerts. Under the capable directorship of the new secondary music teacher, Mr. Mark Compaan, and the middle school choral teacher, Mr. Justin Wyatt, overflow audiences enjoyed wonderful selections of classical, jazz, and spiritual music. One of the highlights of the concerts was the performance of the Jazz Band with individual solos. The larger than ever choirs, bands, and orchestras never sounded better. The next performances will be the Middle School and High School Christmas Concerts at 7:30 P.M. on December 5 on December 12, respectively.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER TEAMS TAKE TWO TOURNAMENTS

This Fall, the TCIS Middle School Intramural teams traveled to SIS and took the "Tigers 7 Soccer Tournament" and then swept through the field and also took the TCIS "Dragon Soccer Tournament." Mr. Brent Frazier with assistance of high school assistant coaches, Yin Hao Lu, T. J. Lee, Brian Kim, Martin Jang, and Thomas Um put together two talented teams that learned a great deal about soccer and teamwork and had a great deal of fun. A special thank you to Mr. Peter Brachmayer, tournament coordinator and the other middle school teachers who assisted.



### TCIS 2002 DRAGON TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

Front Row (L-R): Clyde Eom, Caroline Kim, Bryan Oh, Jennifer Song, Clara Cho, Bia Kim, Michael Chung, Goktan Aydin, & Young Min Park  
Back Row (L-R): T.J. Lee (Ass't Coach), Mark Lee, Eric Choi, Dennis Kwon, Daniel Kim, Patrick Song, Harry Cho, Chris Churchwell, Shinya Kato, Brian Shin, Dale Kim, Jaymin Im, Yin Hao Lu (Coach), Mr. Brent Frazier (Coach)

# TCIS PTA OFFICERS ELECTED



*New PTA President Barbara Smith Jang*

At the TCIS Open House and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) General Meeting held on October 1st in the school auditorium, Mrs. Barbara Smith Jang was elected to serve parents and teachers during the 2002-2003 school year as PTA President.

**Officers Elected**

- President: **Barbara Smith Jang - 862-7725**
- High School Vice-President: **In Sil Lee - 861-1464**
- Middle School Vice-President: **Museok Song- 861-4314**
- Elementary Vice-President: **Insook Kang - 3785-1065**
- Secretary: **Hyang Hee Song - 524-3023**
- Treasurer: **Susan Lee - 486-8957**

**Grade Level Representatives and Room Mothers**

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>PHONE CONTACT</u>
Kindergarten	Yun Ahn	862-6301
Grade 1	June Kim	041 858-9502
Grade 2	Kyoung Sook Choi	019-321-8005
Grade 3	Eun Hwa Roh	489-4048
Grade 4	Kyung Soon Cox	017-711-5976
Grade 5	Kyeo Sook Park	017-257-9854
Grade 6	Kim Seung Mi	011- 431-0406
Grade 7	Mi Kyoung Hong	018-426-0152
Grade 8	Mieun Oh	019-9159-3298
Grade 9	Nam-Young Cho	011-408-2440
Grade 10	Young Eun Kwon	862-9084
Grade 11	Whasil Har Hong	019-9155-4336
Grade 12	Chun Young Sook	017-357-6775

During the coming months, the PTA has planned numerous projects with the aim of improving communication between the home and the school. For information concerning future programs and PTA meetings, contact one of the officers or grade level representatives.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:** December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 23, May 21, June 11 (@ 10:00 A.M.)

## BREAKAWAY II

### —TCIS BOARDING PROGRAM OPENING RETREAT

Living in a boarding school is not an easy task. Many students do not get the boarding experience until they move away from home and attend college. However, there are a select few who have this experience earlier than college. Taejon Christian International School (TCIS) has been in the boarding business for close to half a century and has provided secondary students with this pre-college option.

Over the years, parents of dormitory students relate that registration day is a difficult day and it is never easy for the new dorm student to leave family for an extended period of time. The TCIS boarding staff have recognize this struggle for new students to adjust. They too have come to Korea and have left behind family, friends, culture, and have had to adjust to their new surroundings. Our boarding staff recognized the importance of making friends, getting acquainted with a new environment, and providing a time of bonding between the students, peers, and staff. Thus came the concept of what we now call "Breakaway," a mini-camp set aside at the beginning of each school year to assist students and staff in the process of adjusting. "Breakaway" provides a laid back approach full of activities to help kids bond, learn about the school, dorm program and rules, and get kids comfortable in their new home.



*The over 150 boarding students and staff who attended Breakaway II*

Recommended and approved by the TCIS Board of Trustees, "Breakaway I" took place in August 2001 and proved to be valuable enough to continue as an annual event. Subsequently, in August 2002, with much planning and preparation, "Breakaway II" took place. Three days of uninhibited fun and frolic, TCIS boarding students and staff made number "II" a success. One couldn't say that "Breakaway II" didn't cost the staff lots of time and effort, but it was rewarding for everyone, and knowing that students were glad to be a part of their new family made it worth all the effort.

## NEW BUILDING MAKES RAPID PROGRESS



*Construction continues on the Front Exterior of the New Building*

The school's Master Plan Committee is working with faculty members and the school administration to develop plans for the use of the space vacated in currently existing facilities by the completion of the new building. Space will be vacated in the current high school building and the ground floor of the elementary building. This will give more space for secondary school classes and elementary educational needs.

Financing for the building includes funds from capital development fees and tuition fees and loans from individual parents. The cost of the Phase I buildings is over 3,600,000,000 KRW. The school expects to acquire a debt from the construction of the buildings of between 500,000,000 – 1,500,000,000 KRW. The school Master Plan Committee has recommended to the headmaster that he create plans in the spring to provide a fundraising opportunity for all parents to contribute toward the furnishing of the new building.



*View of the new High School 2nd Floor Classrooms minus their walls*

**I**t is exciting to walk on campus every day and see the construction progress on our new high school and administrative buildings. The construction is only slightly (3 weeks) behind schedule due to the excessive rains in late summer and early fall this year. However, the construction supervisor is confident that most of the significant concrete work will be done before the cold weather arrives for an extended period of time. The new administrative building will include new offices for the school administration, secondary school counseling services, school nurse, school chaplain, and student life minister, curriculum coordinator, general affairs, business office, and personnel office. The new administrative building will also include a faculty work room, storage areas, multi-purpose room, school store, and a large commons area. The front side of the administrative building will feature a covered porch area and a new school entrance and round-about student drop off area. The rear of the administrative building will feature a large balcony area and a grand staircase leading to the heart of our campus.

The new high school building will include five floors with twenty (20) classrooms, inclusive of four (4) very large science lab/classroom areas, large spacious hallways, and an elevator. Both buildings will have central heat and air-conditioning and were purpose built to be very energy efficient.



*View of the future hallway on the Second Floor of the new High School*

We will give you more information about that in the near future. The construction of the building is to be completed in June 2003. The move into the building is planned to occur over the summer vacation. The headmaster is planning to prepare in conjunction with the Board of Trustees a dedication ceremony for the new building sometime in early June so that seniors and their parents who have supported the school may be a part of this new building before graduating. The school is grateful for the support from our parents that has allowed the school to take this giant step forward in providing an excellent facility for our high school students. We look forward to completing the safe and efficient construction of the facility and to celebrating together the acquisition and practical realization of this facility.