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THE SANDSTORM SCOOP

THE SMIC MIDDLESCHOOL NEWSLETTER



THANKSGIVING

WRITTEN BY TIM WU

Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated all around. The national date that people celebrate is the fourth Thursday of November. In the U.S. families gather and become one group. They share what they're thankful for and enjoy time with each other. It's believed that the Pilgrim's served turkey during their meal but through the ages, it has become an inseparable part of Thanksgiving tradition. Some families have traditions in which they go hunting and kill their own turkey, other families buy a turkey and cook it themselves while watching the Thanksgiving Day Football Games.

The point of Thanksgiving is to remember what you are thankful for and cherish the things you normally take for granted. Some foods we enjoyed at SMIC were white, soft mashed potatoes with a bright green broccoli dish to compliment it. We had some chicken and the famous turkey as well. Many students enjoyed the juice that came along with the meal but most of all we can all say we loved the custard tart to finish it all off.

Thanksgiving is a beautiful holiday and we hope you enjoyed it just as much as we did. Remember always be thankful!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO GOLDWIND

WRITTEN BY GEORGE HAN



On last last Friday, which is November 20th, the SMIC middle school students and teachers had their Fall (Actually it's Winter) field trip. They went to Goldwind technologies together and learned different kinds of knowledges about Goldwind, the company, and the technologies about it.

Since the company didn't allow us to take any photos of the tour, this passage will be purely words. But it's still interesting. The first and the biggest part of the tour is when we learned how Goldwind turbines produced energies through the turning of their big leaves. In addition to that, we also saw where they produced, checked, and kept their substation machines (Substation is the process of regulating the current to certain voltages to make them transportable).

Other than the wind-technologies of Goldwind, we also learned how the company clean the waste water from the Beijing sewer system. The waste water that went into Goldwind would go through a maximum of three filters: The first filter makes the water get rid of the solid trashes and some of the other liquids mixed inside them; the second filter clean the water to be able to use for washing and stuff, but still not drinking. And the third filter would finally make the water edible. Lastly, we learned about the planting system of Goldwind. Our guider leaded us through the glass house, filled with tomatoes and peppers, explaining to us about how Goldwind plant the plants with modified sunlight, temperature, humidity, and fertilizing.

To look at the trip conclusively, Goldwind is a really nice company, and we learned a lot of knowledges that we never knew before. This is an awesome field trip!



TEACHER MICHAEL OUTSIDE SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY COCO LEI

We see teachers everyday at school, and we get very familiar with them, but only in the school setting. What do you know about them outside of school? What are their hobbies and their aspirations? Today I am going to show you the other side of teacher Michael. We always wonder why teacher Michael is in such a good shape and always energetic, and now we know why! Teacher Michael's three favorite things outside school is biking, running, and swimming, he often chooses one of those things to do during the week days, and more on the weekends. Another thing that he would do during the weekends is exploring the city, including the shopping malls and fancy restaurants. During vacations, teacher Michael enjoys traveling around, including visiting his family in America and his wife's family in Korea, sometimes even both. But because of covid, he would only travel in China during the winter vacation.

He also likes to mingle with his friends at school, such as jogging with teacher Linh. On the weekends, they like to run together. Now we know what teacher Michael likes to do, and what are the things he hates to do? Like most people, teacher Michael doesn't like cooking, nor cleaning. He said, "I enjoy cooking, but I don't like to cook, it's more of like I have to rather than I get to, same thing with cleaning the house, it's usually during the week when we're too busy to clean the house and it gets kind of messy, so the weekend is usually cleaning time." When asked about what he would do if there's no limitation, and he could do anything and everything he wants to do, what would he do? He said with a longing smile, "Honestly, I would love to be closer to the mountains of Beijing, because I know when you go onto the mountain range, it's just a lot more natural and more beauty out there, and I love to be around nature and of course I love to be on my bike climbing up these mountains, and that's something that I kind of miss being in YiZhuang. So I would love to be able to transport myself instantaneously to some of the mountains around Beijing and just explore all day and then have really good food, and do it all again and again." We sincerely wish that he could realize that soon.



TEACHER LINH OUTSIDE SCHOOL

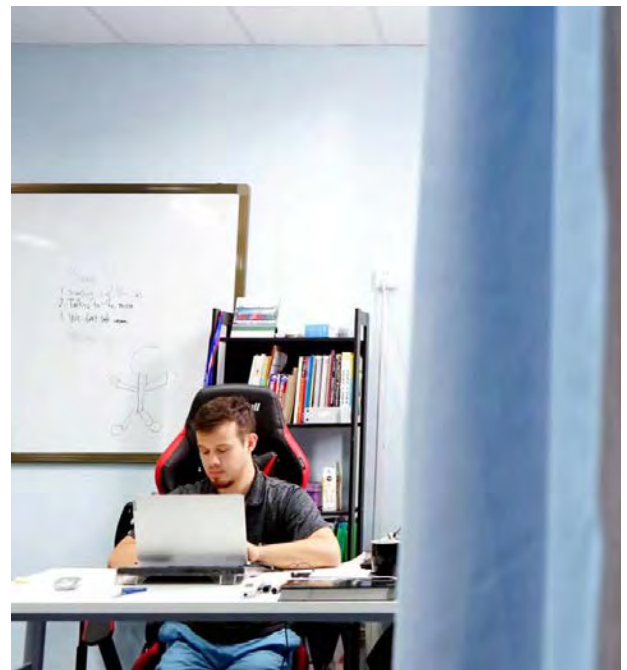
WRITTEN BY COCO LEI

We are so lucky to have teacher Linh the brave around during the covid, while most of our teachers were blocked overseas. It seems to us that he enjoys being at school more than anything else in this world, when he is working, he always seemed to be soaked into his work, not noticing anything around him. Teacher Linh always looks quiet at school, which intrigues our curiosity: What does he do after school? When teacher Linh is back home from work, he puts on some comfortable house clothes and relax, he then plays with his cats for a bit, also playing some music. After that, he exercises and have dinner with his wife. Although weekdays seems simple, but when it comes to weekends, it's the real times for hobbies. On weekends, teacher Linh likes to read, make music, and sometimes go out for a walk. Lately, he'd been running with teacher Michael. He is making some plans for this winter vacation, probably traveling around within China, we can't wait to hear more about it! In the long term, teacher Linh wants to be a farmer, but obviously he needs to get a land first, and he needs to start saving money for that piece of land. We hope this dream comes true in the years to come.

TEACHER R.C. OUTSIDE SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY TIM WU

The legend, the amazing, the incredible Teacher RC. Today we dug deep to the roots and learned some astonishing and some cool facts about Teacher RC's life outside of school. Teacher RC has many identities most famously known is obviously his teaching identity. He enjoys watching drama, comedy, and action movies. However above all he loves watching and soaking up the information from documentary's. Teacher RC bikes to school and weaves throughout traffic. He loves listening to music and his favorite album currently is "Blues in the Grass Album by Miles Davis." Teacher RC also is a dad, his family lives in the U.S. and his sons are both grown up at the age of 20 and 22. His favorite candy is gummy bears or white chocolate anything without nuts. And I think everyone's been wondering... What's the story behind Teacher RC's healthy drinks? Teacher RC strongly believes in drinking a gallon of water every day (5 Liters). His drink also doubles as healthy because of not only the clean water, but the fruits and other assortments of flavoring he adds to it.. T. RC also is adapting to the Chinese tradition of drinking hot water. To most he's known as Teacher RC, to some he's known as Coach RC. Coach RC coaches the SMIC Middle School basketball team along with Coach Christian. All in all, Teacher RC and the middle school teachers hold up the pillars of SMIC and I'm sure you'll all agree we love Teacher RC!



TEACHER MATTHEW OUTSIDE SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY TIM WU

Teacher Matthew the sage is a patient cool teacher at SMIC middle school. He loves playing soccer and jamming out on the piano. After school he enjoys spending quality time with his wife and his soon to come child. If Covid wasn't a thing, T. Matthew would like to travel. His next destination in which he would want to go would be Vietnam. However his wife is Chinese, so they would go to her hometown, meet her relatives, and have a great time with all his extended family. This week he has been putting up many Christmas decorations to celebrate the festivity. Some extra-curricular activities that teacher Matthew enjoy is writing, piano, soccer, and games in general (board games, videos). T. Matthew hates cleaning up the dishes and cleaning up after his cats. However he has a love hate relationship with them. In conclusion, Teacher Matthew the Sage is an awesome, caring and athletic teacher. I think it's safe to say that we all love his classes.

TEACHER SHAYLIN OUTSIDE SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY TIM WU

Teacher Shaylin the fabulous exceeds in teaching all her students with pride and happiness. She loves history with all her heart and loves sharing the love to all her students. When Teacher Shaylin is at home, she loves to watch television decompressing and relaxing. She drinks a cup of tea and plays games with Teacher Christian. After dinner she'd sit down and read a book. During the weekends she enjoys going out. She loves going to the park. She loves exploring new things and traveling places. T. Shaylin and T. Christian are trying

TEACHER CHRISTIAN OUTSIDE SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY TINA ZHUANG

This week, we are doing topics about what do teachers do outside school. Teacher Shaylin and Teacher Christian both stay in a fun place in Bali for about 6 months, they also do many fun things after they came back to Beijing. We are very interested about these events they have and fun people they met outside school, so we decide to interview Teacher Christian about knowing more details of it. Q1: What do you usually do besides teaching before you come back?

We have our scuba certifications, so we are looking to more scuba diving here in China which we heard that there are some pretty cool scuba diving places. Also now but after schools, we going to gym, sometimes we play basketball with Teacher Linh and Teacher RC and try to stay active.

Q2: Are there any friends that you meet in Bali? it was very difficult to meet friends in Bali because we are supposed to be social distancing, but, when we started scuba diving, we met a bunch of people and made a bunch of friends through scuba diving community, and that's how we made a lots of friends, and we still talk to them today, like we talk to them once a week maybe, and we were really good friends. Q2(another one: do you communicate with people in your country using something like wechat?

to explore a new part of Bei Jing every weekend or soon to be bits and pieces of China. If there was no Covid, the first thing that comes to Teacher Shaylin's mind is travel. She relishes every chance she has to explore new places learn new things and be positive. Her favorite thing of all time would be to travel. However on a daily basis, she loves watching movies and appreciates cooking and baking. On the other hand, she hates taking out the trash and cleaning up the dishes. If she could do anything in the world it would to be an archeologist but double as a marine archeologist. This way Teacher Shaylin can explore different places and find new things while traveling to new places. All in all, Teacher Shaylin is nice and quote "A great Teacher" (Coco)!

Yes, and we talk to them through whats app. A lot of them are from either Australia and Indonesia, so kind of down to that area, but everyone still got whats app, so we still talking to them.

Q3: Where do you travel before come to school?

We used to go flight fishing in national parks (because I don't know how to spell the exact name of national park) that national parks is like a really famous and beautiful place in America, we would also travel to Cambodia, and since we been to China, we went to south Korea, and Vietnam, and we are kind of bumping everywhere.

Q4: Are there any interesting foods you guys eat in Bali?

A lot of the local dish would be interesting, and they would be a whole fish, so couple times we had the fish head, but we really don't need the head of the fish, and they had a lot of fried stuff and they had a lot fried rice dishes and also like tofu stuffs, but we don't have anything in that particular place that you think is really crazy and interesting.



PHOTOGRAPHY PAGE

