

TIS JOURNAL

★ OCTOBER



Have a great
Fall Break

**See you on
November 7th**

WORD FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Yu. I (President): There were a lot of exciting events this month. I hope everyone was able to have a good time. The student council is now planning for the movie night, coming up in November, and the High School dance (coming up before winter break). Stay tuned everyone! Have a restful break!

Elisha. P (Vice President): It was an amazing month once again, to spend with the TIS community. Many exciting events are coming up as we approach the end of the year. I hope everyone has a great fall break, and see you back in school soon!

SCHOOL EVENTS

Halloween Festival
Grade ½ field trip
Musical Auditions
Bottle Cap Fundraiser
Bazaar

WRITING SECTION

"Damien" Winner of the short story competition

INTERVIEW

Welcoming a new teacher to the TIS community!!



HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

On the 22nd of October, our school had the Halloween festival. The PTA and the Student Council worked together to create games, such as the Haunted House and provided food and drinks. All TIS students, family, and friends were invited. There were musical performances done by Elementary and Secondary students and even the THS dance club performed! With plenty of amazing costumes, the Halloween festival was a great success for all.



GRADE 1/2 FIELD TRIP

The grade 1/2 students had a trip to Furusato Village at Michinoku Park with their parents, to see old Japanese houses. Currently, grades 1/2 are learning about shelters. At the park, students were able to learn about how the houses were built, and the history of each house. Mr. Bengston, our Art teacher also gave them a drawing lesson, which is now displayed in front of the grade 1/2 classroom. Students and their parents all enjoyed their time at Michinoku Park.

MUSICAL AUDITIONS

Our next spring musical The Wizard of Oz auditions started on the 24th of October. Secondary drama students auditioned for the roles, and we can't wait to find out the castings of the show soon! We are very excited for another amazing journey with the musical crew!



BOTTLE CAP FUNDRAISER

Starting last week, the Student Council organized a Bottle Cap Fundraiser for Secondary students. This Bottle Cap Fundraiser is also one of the school Houses competitions. At the end of the school year, we will see which House collected the most bottle caps and the team will be granted 50 house points!! The collected bottle caps will be given to the JCV (Japan Committee Vaccines for the world's children) organization, for an opportunity to donate vaccines.

BAZAAR

On October 6th and 7th, the PTA held a Bazaar for a fundraising event! Thank you to all the people that have donated their goods for the Bazaar!





OCTOBER



WRITING SECTION

Our English teacher, Mr Zehmke hosted a Halloween short story competition for the secondary students. Winners were announced on Thursday the 28th, and we are excited to share with you the winning piece. Overall winner of the Fright Write Competition: "Damien" by Rebekah (Grade 9)

Damien

I grabbed my yellow wellies and ran for the door. Outside it was cold, wet and grim and a mist devoured the night sky. Vroom! A red Trailrider zoomed past down the otherwise empty street and splashed water into my shoes down to my socks. My mousy blonde hair was soaked from the claps of thunder and flood of rain. I looked behind me and I kept running away from him hoping he wouldn't pull me back. As I was running, I couldn't help but think of how I had gotten myself into this situation and that I may not live to tell the tale. My name is Charlotte Tidby and April 23 was the worst day of my life.

6 years ago I had fallen in love with Damien and from the get go he had hooked me in. He spoke with a firm yet calming voice, the kind that drew you in and made you listen no matter what was being said. It was in our little house that Damien asked me to marry him, right at the bottom of the steps outside underneath the pouring rain. Little did I know that that rain would come back to haunt me. He became more controlling the more time we spent together. He would set curfews for ten o'clock every night and when I would return late he would punish me. Badly. He would watch me sleep, leaning over me breathing down my neck until he knew I was asleep. In our kitchen he kept a row of knives on the wall all in size order from smallest to largest. Soon my curfew would go from ten o'clock to never being able to leave the house.

I woke up that morning with Damien's slicked brown hair and square glasses watching me from a chair next to me. After I got out of the shower, I found my clothes neatly laid out on the bed in the order I was made to put them on. Once I was dressed he brushed and plaited my long hair and watched as I made the bed. I know it sounds wrong but I loved him and sometimes the man I fell in love with shone through as we spoke. I kissed him goodbye as he left to buy some milk and butter from the shops and I sat down to do my knitting. When he returned home he noticed my hair had fallen out of place and struck me across the face before brushing it and plaiting it once again. I looked in the mirror and attempted to cover my bruises with concealer. When I came out of the bathroom I saw him standing in the kitchen with a knife in hand. He had never threatened me before and I saw the look of determination in his eyes as he removed his glasses and crushed them.

I quickly turned back into the bathroom and locked the door behind me. I heard him banging on the door relentlessly as I tried to unlock the window. It wouldn't budge and the door soon became fragile with his brunt force. I looked around in a hurry and saw a creme vase. He barged through the door and I smashed it over his hand before blowing past him and running for the front door. I grabbed my neatly lined yellow wellies from the doormat and ran out onto the street. It was the first time I had been out in over 2 years and the same rain was still pouring. My plaited hair became drenched and as I stopped behind a tree holding my hand to my heart I saw Damien walking at such a pace I never thought possible. I began to scream at the top of my lungs as I kept running away from him.



OCTOBER



WRITING SECTION

He drew closer and closer, almost running on my heels. Suddenly I tripped over a tree root and fell in the dirt. My yellow wellies were now brown filled with mud and overflowing water wedged next to my feet and in between my toes.

“No!” I squealed almost inaudibly as I felt a hand grab the bottom of my black jeans and dig its fingernails into my skin. I picked up dirt under my own fingernails while grabbing handfuls of leaves and mud to pull myself back. I turned over and felt sticks scratching the surface of my scalp as I was pulled back to our house by my ankles. He slipped in a puddle near the town center and I was able to crawl away from him and reach the fountain to pull myself up. He stared me down as he walked towards me and grabbed me by the neck. He pushed my head under as I fell further into the water. I struggled managing to gasp for air every so often, enough so that I was able to scratch him and pull chunks of hair from his head. He yelled as he pulled me out of the fountain by the scruff of my shirt and pulled a knife from his belt.

Damien started to carve into my leg leaving blood to run down into my already filled wellies. I screamed in agony attracting the woman from the flat above the town pub and she came down to find Damien cutting deep into my arms. I heard her call 911 in her nightgown while she ran to lock herself back in the pub after Damien glared at her menacingly. I waited for the sirens while he attempted to choke me whilst I was hanging on to the last thread of life left in me. Whoop whoop! The woman ran out of the pub and clung to the policeman for dear life.

“I came out after I heard her screaming in pain yelling for Damien to get off of her. Only problem was I couldn’t see any Damien. I found her holding a kitchen knife with blood dripping down her arms as she cut into her legs. Charlotte used to come in all the time a few years back but for the last 3 years nothing.”

I was taken to hospital and stayed there for 3 months as I healed from the terrors of what Damien had done to me. Even now I still feel him watching me as I sleep, breathing in my ear and it startles me. Now I was home and as I opened my eyes I saw the usual empty chair where Damien sat. As I got out of the shower I saw the clothes laid out for myself and I brushed through my long hair plaiting like normal. I came down to the kitchen for breakfast making sure to sharpen the knives that were hung on the wall in order of size. When I forgot to make the bed I struck myself across the face and proceeded to cover the bruising with concealer. Everyone knows that Damien never existed but he always will to me and he will always be the love of my life.

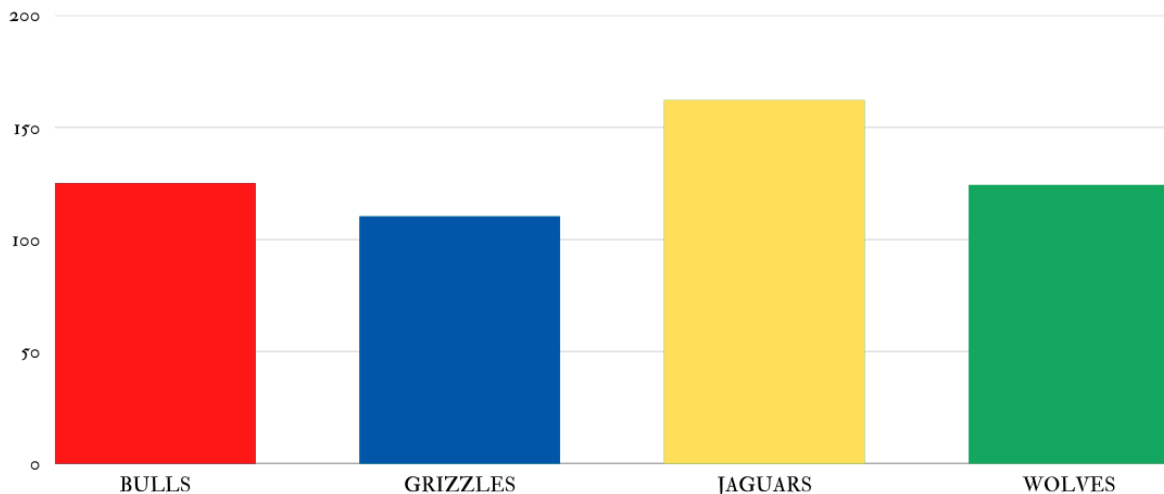


New Grade 5-6 teacher Ms. Hannah McKinzie

1. What was your first impression of the school?
 - a. My first impression of the school is that this school is quite different from the American school. Also, I thought this school is a really creative community.
2. What are some unique or interesting things about TIS that you realized?
 - a. I realized that TIS students have more freedom to choose what they want to do. Like the PYPX topic.
3. What are you most excited about being part of the TIS community?
 - a. Teaching G5-6 because they're all sweet. And working with very nice
 - b. coworkers.
4. How is your life in Japan?
 - a. It's been 3 months since I came to Japan. It's been really good!
5. What was the first cultural difference you noticed between Japan and America?
 - a. I noticed that the driver is sitting on the right seat. In the U.S, the driver sits in the left seat. I also noticed that the majority of people in Japan consider education to be one of the most important things, which is a really good thing.



CURRENT HOUSE POINTS



SC NEWSPAPER TEAM:

- Elisha. P - editor, world news writer
- Mari. B - world news writer
- Megumi. B - world news writer
- Yeo Won. K - creative writer
- Souta. A - creative writer
- Kseniia. F - school event writer
- Yu. I - layout designer

Thank you for your support in the student council newspaper! If you have any topics or announcements put into the newspaper, contact us!