



**BTB School**  
培青国际学校

**Spotlight**  
*Term 4 edition*  
A.Y 2023-2024





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# KARTINI'S LEGACY: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION (HS)

By: Novrelya 10C

On April 21st every year, Indonesia commemorates the birth of the honorary Ibu Raden Ajeng Kartini, a figure of feminism and women's empowerment who has contributed immensely towards gender equality. Despite being born into an aristocratic family, she showed tremendous effort and perseverance in fighting for women's right to education. Through her determination, she successfully opened six all-girls' schools across the island of Java, notably naming them 'Kartini Schools'.

To honor her impeccable accomplishments, Bina Tunas Bangsa School held a special celebration on April 22, 2024. Everyone was told to wear Batik, and at 7:30 a.m., all students and teachers were requested to gather in the assembly hall and on the interactive stairs to witness splendid performances prepared by the students. The event was initiated by the masters of ceremony, Anjarico (12E) and Florence (10N), which was then followed by a speech by Ms. Willi.

After the speech concluded, Charla (9N) took the stage and delivered a national favorite song, 'Ibu Kita Kartini'. As the day progressed, various performances captivated the audience. Celline (10C) brought two spectacular solos, 'Gita Gutawa' and 'Rayuan Pulau Kelapa', and a special duet, 'Ibu Pertiwi', was performed by Florence (10N) and Rychelle (10N). The Grade 9 students also took the stage with brilliant traditional dances.

Then, the Grade 11 Indonesian B SL class showcased their talented and creative skit about the life of Kartini. A clever mix of old settings and modern songs made the performance tremendously unique and interesting to see. The actors and actresses in the play were all extremely professional, creating a wonderful depiction of Kartini's story.



The show concluded with an unexpected trio performance by Florence (10N), Rychelle (10N), and Sebastian (10E), who amused the crowd with their rendition of 'Yamko Rambe Yamko'. Finally, Ms. Paul gave a concluding speech to end this sensational day. Ibu Kartini holds a vital role in combating gender inequality in Indonesia, and we must never forget her legacy.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES KARTINI DAY WITH TRADITIONAL CLOTHING AND PERFORMANCES

By: Jennifer H. (7E) and Jennifer (8E)

To commemorate the hero who brought equality to all women, BTB School celebrated Kartini Day on April 23, 2024. Students and teachers were required to wear traditional Indonesian clothing, such as Kebaya and Batik. Numerous events, including traditional performances and even a fashion show, were held on this day.

To start, BTB students sang the 'Indonesia Raya' song and the BTB hymn. Then Mr. Yudi, our PPKN teacher, led the event by starting with a prayer and telling us about what Ibu Kartini has done for us over the past few generations. The students of grades 6, 7, and 8 performed and showcased their traditional clothing in a fashion show. For the final performance, Ms. Niniek, Ms. Andriani, Ms. Putri, Ms. MJ, and Ms. Rieka gave us a fantastic performance in traditional clothing.

The fashion show winners for grade 6 were Moses and Madeline, the winners for grade 7 were Jardean and Emily, and finally, the winners for grade 8 were Jason and Michelle. The best traditional outfits worn by teachers were by Ms. Nathania and Mr. Jimmy. The best traditional outfits worn by students in grade 6 were by Haylee and Jayden; in grade 7, by Shinee and Ixchel; and in grade 8, by Kylie and Keitaro. Overall, the students enjoyed this special event and look forward to it next year.



# THE REVOLUTION IN SCIENCE @scienceday

By: Jocelyne (9C)

**Happy Birthday to our planet, Earth! You must be suffering, but we promise to put in the effort to take care of you. Hang on for just a little longer.**

This year, BTB School held its Science Day on April 23rd, coincidentally the day after Earth Day. Global goals nowadays are everything for a 'brighter future.' So it's only obvious that the theme for this year was: 'Science: Innovating Solutions for a Better Tomorrow.'

The teachers have decided to add something unique to this year's edition, with our two activities being 'BTB Spectra Fest' and 'BTB Shark Tank.' While the activities were announced before the Lebaran break, preparations and efforts did not cease during the holidays.

The day started with a lively opening ceremony, with our school principal, Ms. Paul, emphasizing the significance of human actions towards our environment. The opening ceremony then transitioned into an Earth Day presentation, which included a video about the history of plastic and a short speech by Cordy (9 Curie) addressing pollution - the giant elephant in the room - and advocating for replacing single-use plastic for the better. All students from grades 9 and 11 then transitioned into their respective classes, preparing for the day's activities.

For the Spectra Fest, each class of Grade 9 and Grade 11 was asked to pick two fun (and engaging) experiments that highlight the importance of science and prove that science can be enjoyable with simple materials. Examples of physics experiments include demonstrations of string telephones, singing wine glasses, and flying pipes; while examples of chemistry experiments include elephant toothpaste, self-inflating balloons, and natural indicators. Additionally, there were experiments involving biology.



Having our own version of Shark Tank ignited the creative and innovative spirit in everyone, where every class had to propose an idea or prototype supported by a scientific hypothesis. Long story short, every class presented their own proposals: a magnetic levitation bridge by 9 Curie; replacing car fuel with water by 9 Darwin; creating synthetic diamonds out of carbon dioxide by 9 Einstein; using coconut husks to make eco-friendly packaging by 9 Newton; an application that integrates with a smart voice assistant to track and guide a person's lifestyle by 11 Curie; eco-friendly air fresheners made from fruit peels by 11 Einstein; and stone paper that is waterproof and tear-resistant by 11 Newton.



# EXPLORATION STATION: A SPECTACLE OF SCIENCE!

By: Charmaine(6N) and Gwyneth (6C)

Children are naturally wise and curious from birth. However, what can make learning engaging and enjoyable for them? On April 26, 2024, BTB organized a scientific fair for optimistic middle school students, allowing them to showcase their cleverness in front of the skilled judges, Ms. Paul, Ms. Wenchie, and Ms. Nathania in the school auditorium.

In groups, the students participated in scientific and art projects, with each team given 2 minutes to present their works to the board of judges. Initially, students were asked to select a theme for their group and craft their projects using materials provided by the school. Through the students' knowledge, art, and wisdom, they were able to pull off outstanding performances that captured the judges' attention.

The following winners are:

### Best Display Boards

Rhema, Annabelle, Bella, Abigail, Chloe, Dylan (6C)  
 Joshua, Jocelyn, Cleon, Ashley, Cheryl, Shine (7C)  
 Gracelyn, Charisse, Celine, Brandon (8G)

### Best Science Projects

Celine, Robin, Adelynn, Virlliant, Nickolas (6E)  
 Abigail, Alicia, Dominic, Denzel, Bietala, Priscillia (7C)  
 Aiden, Leon, Ernest, Jason (8N)



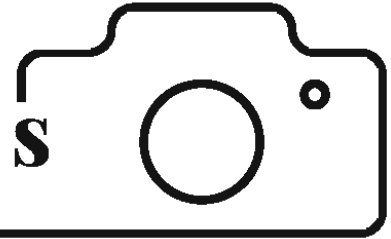
Together, BTB and its students are nurturing students' innate creativity by encouraging them to explore and unleash their natural curiosity at the science fair.

# 3, 2, 1, Action!

## The Tale of School

# Assemblies

By: Nadine (9C)



Taking the stage on April 3rd, 9 Curie and 9 Einstein were ready to perform their assembly titled "Beyond the Spotlight." It featured Iris (played by Caitlyn 9C) who had dreamed of becoming an idol since high school and her best friend, Ruby (played by Celine 9E), making it to the big city for an audition. Both girls managed to pass the audition, Iris through talent and Ruby through her looks. Yet, in the end, Ruby achieves success in debuting in a new, upcoming girl group, while Iris is left as a trainee. This tale showcased the envious and betraying nature of these girls and showed the brutal reality of prioritizing looks over talent, a common occurrence in the entertainment industry. It also warned viewers about corrupted corporations and their exploitative treatment of employees. The moral of this play was not to be envious of those around us but to support them and not give up on oneself. Featuring songs such as 'Dangerously,' 'Tightrope,' and 'Fever,' and also including references to K-Pop memes, the assembly captured the enthusiasm of many, making it one to remember.

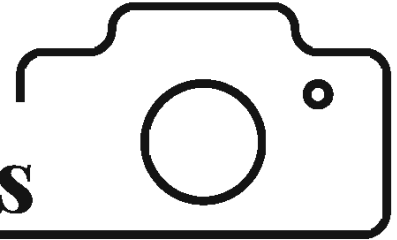




# 3, 2, 1, Action!

## The Tale of School

# Assemblies



A few weeks later, on April 22nd, it was 9 Darwin and 9 Newton's turn to showcase their assembly, titled "Mean Girls." Heavily inspired by the 2004 comedy film, a new student, Livia (9D), was approached by 'The Plastics', a group consisting of Jesslyn (9D), Chloe (9N), and Carissa (9N), as she navigated her path around school. Soon, Livia developed a crush on a boy in her Math class, Gino (9N). She intends to ask him out, only to be warned by Chloe and Carissa that Jesslyn has already set her eyes on him. As the story progresses, The Plastics turn out to be more fake than they seem, gossiping about one another behind each other's backs and lying straight to each other's faces. Livia slowly starts to realize that, though she thought she was better than Jesslyn by being "kinder" and "more supportive," she turned into what she was trying to avoid the most. This story conveys the lesson of not bullying others and being true to oneself. Their assembly created waves of laughter among the audience for its combination of familiar Mean Girl humor and today's typical slang, leaving a memorable impression.





# WSC: AN EXHILARATING SCHOLARLY EVENT

BY: CELINE H (6E) & FLO (6D)

The World Scholar's Cup is an engaging annual international competition where scholars gain knowledge across diverse topics while having tons of fun with the humorous staff. This event was held on May 11-12, 2024, at SPK Penabur Kelapa Gading and ACS Jakarta for the first day, and at Ciputra Artpreneur for the second day.

To begin the event, an opening ceremony was conducted to introduce the hosts, Naho and Olive. Then, they kicked off the competition with Team Debate, where each team debated for a total of three rounds on motions across various subjects, with 15 minutes to prepare and 4 minutes to argue their hearts out! After the debates, they proceeded with Collaborative Writing, an event where teams choose one topic out of six ranging from Science to Literature to craft an essay on. They ended the day with the Scholar's Challenge, a typical test with multiple-choice questions (MCQ), but with a twist—scholars are allowed to select multiple answers.



On the following day, the event started off with the Scholar's Bowl, where each team is handed a clicker that they have to use to answer the questions displayed on the screen.

If I could describe this event with just one word: chaos (but the good kind). You might have heard teams shouting out wrong answers, getting into friendly disagreements with their teammates, or celebrating enthusiastically when they answered a question correctly.

After that was the Debate Showcase, which involved scholars who were specially selected by judges to showcase their debate skills on stage. Shortly after that was the Scholar's Show, where students got to showcase their unique talents (and lack thereof) by performing on stage!

Finally, the event closed with the Awarding Ceremony. Scholars cheered as they received their medals, trophies, and even pineapples! In the end, everyone enjoyed this fun experience — they learned many new topics while bonding with friends, or even making new ones. They even got an alpaca to end it memorably! 🐫



# WAISAK CELEBRATION: Birth of a Teaching

By: Sammie Tabita Koka (9D)



Waisak is a day celebrated by many Buddhists around the world. The way it is celebrated varies across countries, particularly in Asian nations, but it typically occurs on the first full moon of the ancient lunar month of Vesakha, falling in May or early June. Why is celebrating Waisak Day significant to Buddhists? How is it celebrated? And can followers of other religions participate in this celebration?

## History

Waisak Day commemorates the birth of the founder of Buddhist teachings, Prince Siddhartha Gautama, or the Buddha. Legend has it that his mother gave birth while standing, and upon his birth, the prince took his first seven steps, with a lotus blooming with each step. Though isolated from the outside world by his father, the prince ventured out in a carriage around the city, where he encountered sights of old age, sickness, and death. Despite these encounters, he observed a monk who remained calm amid the suffering around him, sparking his curiosity. He then secretly left the palace, embarking on a journey where he learned various teachings and eventually attained "nirvana" - the state of enlightenment characterized by peace and happiness. Along the way, he imparted many teachings, known as the "Dharmma," but he tragically passed away in a state of parinirvana, where he did not reincarnate into this world again.

## How do we celebrate Waisak Day?

Different countries have different ways of celebrating this day. In Indonesia, we celebrate it by "bathing" the Buddha, an event believed to purify the hearts and minds of people. Other practices include eating vegetarian foods for a day, visiting temples, or participating in meditation to commemorate Waisak Day. Monks bottle holy water and transport flames using candles. They also participate in the "Pindapata," an event where people offer food to the monks.

## Can other religions celebrate Waisak Day?

Certainly! In fact, Buddhism was first recorded in India, where the majority of citizens are part of Hindu culture. Just because we have different religions does not mean we cannot celebrate it. In Sri Lanka, many people still celebrate this day even though their country is home to many different religions.





## WAISAK DAY: COMMEMORATING THE BIRTH, THE ENLIGHTENMENT, AND THE PASSING OF LORD BUDDHA

By: Renata (7G)

Two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 B.C., on the day of a full moon in May, Lord Buddha Siddhartha Gautama was born. This day of the month later became the date of Lord Buddha's enlightenment and the date of his passing at the age of eighty. This day is now known as Waisak/Vesak Day and is a sacred day to Buddhists around the globe.

Recently, BTB School held a special assembly in the Pluit Timur Campus Auditorium on June 4, 2024, to celebrate Waisak Day. Buddhist students and several teachers gathered in the auditorium to celebrate the occasion.

The assembly began as the students, under the guidance of Mr. Agus, chanted Namaskara Gatha and performed Namasakara, paying homage to Lord Buddha, followed by a 15-minute meditation session, allowing the attendees to introspect, calm the mind, and think about acceptance towards themselves.



The first highlight of the assembly that morning was the presence of Bhiksuni Xian Xing. She delivered a speech on harmony, reminding the students of the importance of harmony. Her words left a valuable lesson for all those present that morning.

As Bhiksuni Xian Xing's speech came to an end, it was time for the second highlight of the assembly, bathing the Buddha, which symbolizes inner purification and reminds us to always keep a pure mind. As the students approached the baby Buddha, they kneeled and carefully bathed the statue with sincerity.

To close the assembly, Bhiksuni Xian Xing, as well as the attendees, chanted while Bhiksuni Xian Xing sprinkled holy water on both the attendees and the area surrounding the Baby Buddha.

In conclusion, the assembly that morning was not only an opportunity for students to pay homage to the life and teachings of Lord Buddha but also reminded the attendees of harmony and inner peace.

# Prepare, Perform, and Prosper with Checkpoint Examination



By: Danna (8N) & Hayden (8E)

Checkpoint, a prominent and vital examination, approached on April 20, 22, and 24, 2024, as this year's batch prepared to demonstrate their knowledge and skills with one aim: to excel. Just as they submitted their candidacy for entry, they were ready to face another obstacle, and there is no doubt they would ace it.

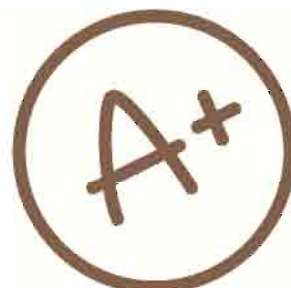
## No Pain, No Gain

The training is held for one month, once a week for each subject. Despite the existing workload, regular classes, extracurricular activities, and even during the holidays, our diligent students continued their training, pouring out their blood, sweat, and tears in preparation for the significant trilogy – Mathematics, Science, & English. The contribution of our dedicated teachers and the past papers they provided played a crucial role in mastering various topics. Additionally, students united in helping each other, discussing, and sharing suggestions and advice. It was a fun new experience that required teamwork. Hence, Grade 8 shares the same ambition, battle, and goal.

## D-Day

With moments left until the exam, tension began to build up. The holiday cut a good amount of training, making it harder for the students, yet they persevered. The first of the three tests was English, followed by Mathematics and Science. Even though not all felt ready and self-doubt arose, what matters most is that they tried their best.

Ultimately, the test's purpose is not only to assess a student's intelligence but also how much effort they are willing to commit. Overall, the test was also an excellent learning experience. Students learned more than just the topics discussed; they also learned important life lessons such as perseverance and diligence. This test will undoubtedly be something that all participants will remember, serving as a stepping stone to future success.





# EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS: THE PRIMARY EXHIBITION OF BTB

By: Dwayne & Michio (7C)

The primary exhibition is a research project in which Grade 5 students from BTB School participate and collaborate on a global issue. The exhibition focuses on the students' genuine inquiry into real-life situations and events that continue to shape and impact the world. It was created to allow students to synthesize and showcase their learning, encouraging in-depth inquiry, demonstrating their understanding, fostering independence and collaboration, promoting reflection and action, and engaging the community.



The purpose of the Grade 5 exhibition is to allow students to demonstrate their understanding and application of the knowledge, skills, and concepts they have acquired throughout the Primary Years," stated Ms. Ruby. The primary exhibition acts as a bridge for the students to deepen their understanding of global issues and prepares them for the future. It was created to enable students to showcase and build on their learning and independence, encouraging action and reflection, and engaging the community.

Through this exhibition, students' understanding of the world deepens and broadens. They learn to gather data and relevant information to enrich their research and thinking skills. Additionally, it provides them with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding, skills, and actions as globally-minded learners. This year, students (grouped into teams of 8-9 students with a mentor each) embarked on a quest to inquire about various global issues, such as poverty, global warming, water pollution, quality education, and many more. The experience proved to be rewarding and exhilarating.



# UNITY THROUGH ART: MIDDLE SCHOOL'S ART EXHIBITION

By: Celine N (6E)

On the 7th of June 2024, the first-ever art exhibition for middle school was held in the BTB School Pluit Timur Auditorium. This year's theme for the art exhibition was "ArtStarts: Unity." Parents and students had the opportunity to experience and enjoy many majestic masterpieces. Through this art exhibition, we learned the importance of collaborating with others.



Many types of artworks were showcased, such as murals, paintings, clay art, and even art collaborations with other subjects. The exhibition displayed students' artworks, which can help them become more confident in their creativity skills. The day started with Ms. Paul initiating the ribbon-cutting ceremony to properly commence the art exhibition. Visitors flooded in to view the artworks, while specially selected students explained the pieces of art to them for a better understanding. After finishing viewing the exhibition, they were encouraged to leave a review on a board. In the end, this exhibition was undeniably a success, demonstrating the strength of unity and the endless possibilities when people unite and set their differences aside.





## One Last Editors' Note

Every end of term, 12-year-old Gloria would bring home a freshly printed copy of Spotlight and proudly show off every single article she wrote with her name on the byline. Yes, there were grammar mistakes; yes, they were cringe-worthy. And yes, I've always avoided re-reading them for the sake of my sanity.

I can't remember the number of Google Docs I've created throughout middle school up until this point for Spotlight, or the number of people I've annoyed just to interview them, or the number of times I've texted our advisors for a deadline extension (sorry, Ms., we've tried our best to keep up).

But here we are—5 years of journalism ASA, 2 years of editing, and countless words later, I am typing out my very last editor's note.



A lot of people ask me why I'm willing to sit down for hours in front of my overheating laptop and edit article after article on top of the amount of essays I have to do (whoops, there goes my EE progress...). And after all that work, they'd say:

"who even reads spotlight nowadays?"

It's fine because I know that what is done in love is well done. And I love all things done well. I'm always in awe of how perspective changes stories; how different authors can share the same exact story yet have very different, insightful outputs. How words can become a canvas to convey stories of our school life through the lenses of us students. Raw (but edited, of course, otherwise we wouldn't need editors).

Journalism might not be the only thing that my world revolves around, but it is a huge part of my student life that I'll never forget. It's how I learned to communicate and negotiate, improve my time management (or worsen, I can't tell the difference), meet new people, learn new things (constantly), and most importantly, master Google Workspace.

Much appreciation goes to Ella (and Vania) who stayed up with me every 3 months to catch up with Spotlight, the design team (love you guys), the student services department (thank you for the pictures!), our advisors Ms. Emilia, Ms. Mary, and Ms. Shayne (thank you!), Ms. Chrissie, and my 6-7th-grade English teacher Ms. Candice who had faith in my writing skills, though they were pretty bad at that time. All good things come to an end, they say; this one's one of those good things.

Enjoy this term's Spotlight. Oh right, congratulations for finishing IGCSE and IB, and happy graduation to the class of 2024! Fly high!

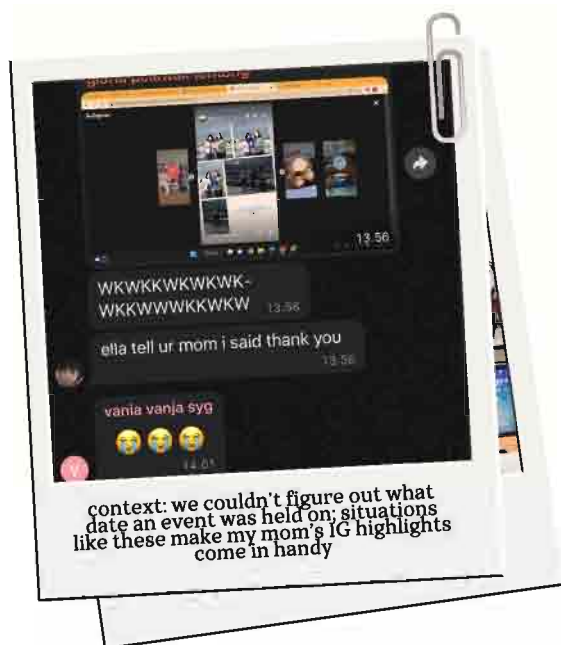
To our journalists -- please, for all our sanity, give your future editors editing access to your gdocs, and use the oxford comma!

With love,

Gloria Netanya Mak  
 Spotlight Editor in Chief 2022 - 2024.

## One Last Editors' Note

I remember the joy of being featured in the school's student spotlight back in Primary 1 and how it inspired me to sign up for the 'Creative Writing' ASA the following year, marking the beginning of my journey. I remember the constant race against time, trying to pour out all my ideas before they slipped away. I remember admiring our previous editors for their skills, absorbing every bit of feedback they offered, feeling immense pride every time my work made the final cut. I remember being a little girl, looking up to the older students doing all these amazing things, and now, in what feels like the blink of an eye, I've become one of them, here typing out one last editor's note for BTB's Spotlight.



Looking back, all these memories—the frustrations, the late-night procrastination, the pride and joy—have shaped me into who I am today. It's still hard to believe that for the past two academic years, I've had the pleasure of managing the school's spotlight; writing articles, giving feedback, working closely with Gloria, our advisors, the photographers, and even taking part in designing with our designers. It has been an incredible journey.

As much as I wish this could last forever, with a heavy heart, I know I must pass on this responsibility before it drowns me with the demands of the IB next year. To Spotlight, thank you for being a huge part of my youth, although this may seem like the end, perhaps it is just the end of the beginning.♡

To future editors and journalists, I hope you discover the same love for it as I have (though sometimes it really makes me want to rip all my hair out).

Signing off,

Annabella Charlene Huang.

Spotlight Associate Editor 2022 - 2024.









*Everything you lose  
is a step you take.*



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