

BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR NEWSLETTER



BFS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021 EDITION

www.busanforeignschool.org



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL
Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence



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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence

**Thankful
and
Grateful**



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL | MAY 2021 EDITION

A Word from the Principal *Iain Macfarlane*

Seventeen months into the pandemic, many of us feel grateful for being here in Korea. Compared to most places worldwide, we have a tremendous amount of safety and a significant degree of normalcy in our lives. This is also true for BFS. We have been fortunate to continue excellent learning and be a place where our community strengthens us. However, we know that our success has required a significant degree of flexibility and trust from our community.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the role you, our BFS parents, have played in our accomplishments. Throughout this year, you have shown a tremendous amount of patience as we have moved through various modes of education from online to hybrid and entirely in person. Your questions and feedback have helped us improve our efforts to meet our goals of keeping everyone safe and delivering high-quality education. I would also like to acknowledge your patience as we awaited permission to start our after-school activities. We can all agree

that these programs provide so much to our students. We all benefit when our students are allowed to express themselves artistically and athletically.

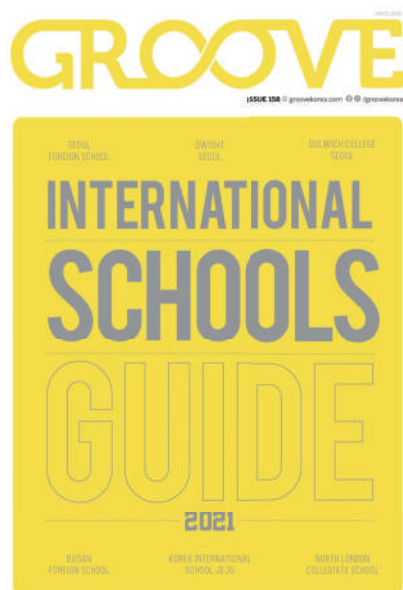
I especially want to thank those parents who participate in our PTSO meetings. While everyone would prefer to meet in person, you've taken your time to meet via Zoom and made us stronger together with your thoughtful initiatives. The staff appreciation breakfast from earlier this month was excellent. So much thought and care went into this experience, and on behalf of our teachers and staff, thank you! I am grateful to work at a school where people support one another to strive for excellence.

If this past year has taught us anything, it is to be patient, be prepared, and be flexible. When we work together, we turn adversity into strength. As we head into our last four weeks of school, we will have many more opportunities to create positive and lasting memories from a unique and challenging year.

Iain Macfarlane
BFS Principal

Groove Korea – 2021 International School's Guide

Proud of having been featured in the Internationals Schools Guide of the Groove Korea Magazine! In their article Groove recognizes our unique environment which provides a quality education filled with opportunities in a particularly caring environment.



45 Daecheon-ro 67 Beon-gil, Haeundae-gu, Busan

THE first thing to know about Busan Foreign School is that it's small, but proud of its cozy and close-knit community. The facilities it has to offer, and the quality education, has made it a positive thing to be there. However, there is one thing that is a bit of a surprise to many. The bigger the university or institution, the better it must be, and for that reason, the more famous it often ends up being. The assistant principal, Carl Breckenham, told me that a smaller school is actually an advantage, and that specifically from a student's point of view, "You have more to share more."

This, normal-looking school actually really brought me back to my own public school experience, with familiar hallways, and a feeling of home.

With the early 11:15 a.m. start of a foreign school in Busan, the school provides itself as a good home, and safe space to be. I actually ended up spending a long time with the school counselor, Rebecca Austin-Carlisle, who also illustrated how the school took seriously the value of establishing an environment as a "safe space" for not only students but to explore, branch out in new directions, and truly grow.

Since I moved, come from a generation to where mental health is quite nearly a taboo subject and visiting the school psychological services is something many would never be caught dead doing. I was truly curious as to how she integrated with students. Also, how much of a presence



For services and expertise could be to their fees. She related how she literally integrates her own office as a community safe space into the greater view of a safe space in the general sense. She explained that her office is a place where anyone could walk into and simply sit down and have lunch for no real reason and without an appointment. Some kids actually do, wander in from outside and have lunch in there, nearly every day, she said. A kid can feel free to talk about anything, make and chat, or simply just talk about anything at all just sit and wait. She also interacts with all the students in the school from the early year and has a presence and support structure for them. By the time students come to know her place roll only in the staff structure but also as a friendly face and a safe space to go to for any reason. They always have someone to talk to and someone to fall back on. As I sat in her office engaged in a ment

THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CARL BRECKENHAM TOLD ME THAT THE SMALLER SCHOOL WAS ACTUALLY AN ADVANTAGE, AND THAT SPECIFICALLY FROM A STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW, "YOU HAVE MORE TO SHARE MORE."

Staff Appreciation Day

On May 4th, we celebrated Staff Appreciation day at BFS. Our PTSO and many parents at the school teamed up to make sure breakfast would be available for all our staff (teachers, administration, office, cleaners, drivers). This was no small task as school access was limited and so much work took place behind the scenes, off-site, and in small groups. It was a day of gratitude, not only for all the staff at BFS does but also for our wonderful community. They help us value what we do and feel appreciated.



2021 Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny was really busy at BFS on April 2nd! Our fields were filled with eggs and students enjoyed a “challenging” hunt. MS&HS were also thankful for getting their share of sugar during lunch break.



Meet Our Alumni: Hejie Choi | Class of 2010



MEET OUR ALUMNI!



Hejie Choi

BFS Class of 2010

- University of Washington, Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology, 2015
- University of Washington, Doctor of Pharmacy, 2020

What are you up to now? (talk about your job, life, etc)

I am currently a first year pharmacy resident at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington. After pharmacy school, pharmacists have the option to pursue additional clinical training through a hospital residency or fellowship program which is essentially what I have been up to since graduating last June. I have been thoroughly enjoying my learning experience on how to leverage my expertise as the clinical pharmacist in my health care team.

Do you have any passion projects?

I enjoy watching movies with friends, painting, dancing when I'm alone at home, visiting national parks, and traveling to other countries.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in College?

Flying solo - living and becoming financially independent! Growing up, I relied heavily on my parents to hold me accountable for getting things done or make life decisions. It was (and still has been) a tough transition growing into an "adult", which entails discovering what my personal core values and work-life balance strategies are.

What advice do you have for BFS students as they go off to university/college?

Do not hesitate to try something you're interested in. You only have limited time in college to experience the tremendous amount of learning opportunities your institution has to offer. Whether you are curious about a career field or a study abroad opportunity, tap into their introductory course or orientation session to find out if it is something you can give a try! You may be surprised to find past experiences you thought were irrelevant come handy in your future endeavors. Don't be afraid of "wasting time".

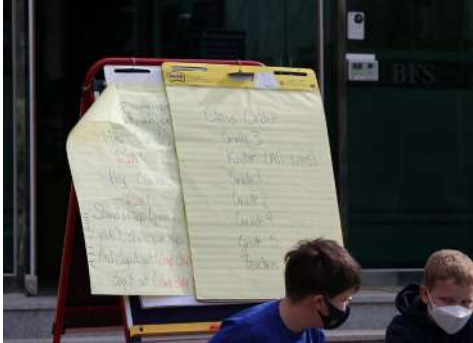
What memory of BFS comes to mind?

Favorite memories of BFS are playing soccer with schoolmates of all ages during lunch break, performing dance choreographies as a team at school events, and hanging out with friends at Haeundae Beach after school.



April Elementary Shark Assembly

May 7th morning's elementary assembly took place outdoors, on our futsal field. Grade 3 demonstrated excellent leadership and presentation skills as they guided all students through their program, which included a morning greeting exercise, three literary reads, and congratulatory messages to all April birthdays.



Early Childhood Garden

Look how well are our youngest learners taking care of our green spaces! When we learn to care for our environment we also learn to care for each other.



Grade 2 Bookmark Store

Three grade-2 students opened a “book mark store”. They provided pieces of paper, sticky notes and sooooo many stickers from which their BFS friends could choose. No charge to the bookmark makers. What a joy to see our young Sharks turning an idea about sharing into reality!



Grade 3 Spanish Class - Piñata

During the last quarter, Grade 3 students explored the way Spanish cultures celebrate in different parts of the world. One such traditions is the “Piñata”. Students were involved start to end in designing, creating and finally celebrating with the piñata! Ms. Martinez said that students were highly engaged during this unit.





Class of 2021 University Acceptances



BFS CLASS OF 2021

A cohort of 20 with
over **70** acceptances to
over **60** different universities.






27 individual merit-based scholarships amounting to 2.2 mio USD.

Acceptances to schools in the
US, Canada, Korea and the UK.

**8 acceptances to schools ranked in the top 50 US (US News World) and
6 ranked in the top 100 World-wide (Times Higher Education).**

Fantastic results for our 20 students in the Class of 2021! and more coming in ...

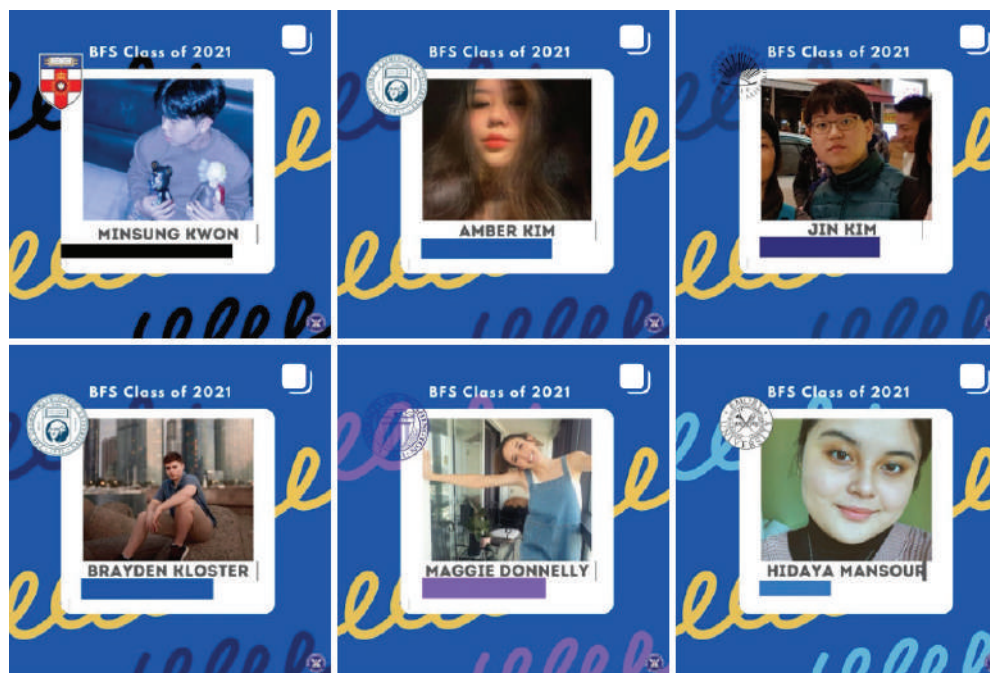
- Over 2.2 million USD in merit-based scholarships (the largest received amount for a single cohort in the history of BFS!)
- 75 Acceptances
- 64 different colleges and universities
- 8 Top 50 US Universities — per US News: 2021 National University Rankings
- 6 top 100 Global — per Times Higher Education: 2021 World University Rankings
- 2 top 20 liberal arts colleges
- 4 Different Countries — US, Canada, England, Korea.
- 22 new colleges to BFS — we really cater for all our students.



Class of 2021 University Acceptances:

- American University
- Baylor University
- Belmont University
- Boston University
- California State University, Long Beach
- Carleton University
- Case Western University
- Christopher Newport University
- Colgate University
- Cornell University
- Drexel University
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emerson College
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- Gonzaga University
- Hofstra University
- Iowa State University
- James Madison University
- Kingston University
- Lawrence University
- Lesley University
- Michigan State University
- New York University (NYU)
- Norwich University
- Ohio University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Pace University
- Penn State — Harrisburg
- Pennsylvania State University
- Pratt Institute
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)
- Rutgers University
- Saint Joseph's University
- School of Visual Arts, NYC
- Seattle University
- St. Michaels University, USA
- SUNY Purchase
- SUNY Stony Brook, Korea
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- University of Minnesota
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Colorado
- University of East London
- University of Illinois, Chicago
- University of Iowa
- University of Miami
- University of North Carolina, Wilmington
- University of Oregon
- University of Portland
- University of St. Francis
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Vassar College
- Villanova University
- Virginia Wesleyan University
- Washington State University
- West Chester University
- York University

Class of 2021 BFS Senior Instagram @BFS_CLASSOF2021



@bfs_classof2021

This account is dedicated to the 20 seniors in the graduating class of 2021—to celebrate their accomplishments, root for their future plans, and to hear about what they have to say about their time at BFS!

So please support the seniors and look out for exciting announcements!



SCAN HERE!

Busan.IZ April Edition

The April edition of Busan IZ has been published!

Do you have the corona blues? In this edition Youseong recommends some shows and movies that will keep you entertained.



Busan.IZ Places 1st at the International Yale Daily News Competition

Proud of BusanIZ, the BFS student led newspaper who participated at the Yale Daily News international competition winning Best Photo Award, Best Sports Article Award for Gaetane, Culture Article Honorable Mention for Sona, News Article Honorable Mention for Youseung, and Feature Article Honorable Mention for Val. Most importantly, they WON the whole competition by placing 1st for the best publication.



Busan.iz
Busan Foreign School

1st Place Overall Publication Award
Yale Daily News International Journalism Symposium
April 24 – 25, 2021



Busan.iz
"The Impact of COVID-19 on Sports" by Gaetane Staelens

Best Sports Article Award
Yale Daily News International Journalism Symposium
April 24 – 25, 2021



Busan.iz
Busan Foreign School

Best Photo Award
Yale Daily News International Journalism Symposium
April 24 – 25, 2021



Busan.iz

"Latest Updates about the COVID-19 in Busan" by Youseung Kim
News Article Honorable Mention
Yale Daily News International Journalism Symposium
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Busan.iz

"This Month in History: Spanish Flu" by Val Kim
Feature Article Honorable Mention
Yale Daily News International Journalism Symposium
April 24 – 25, 2021

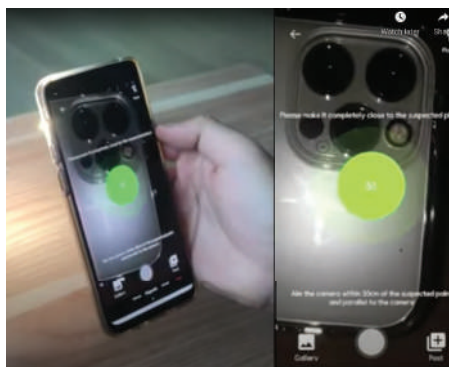
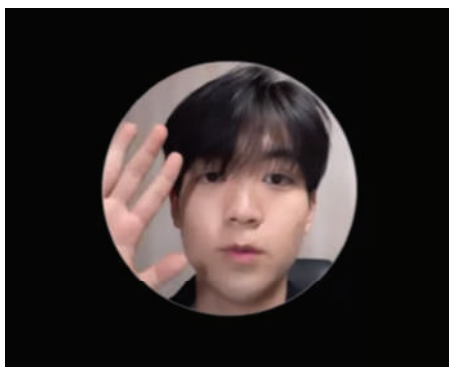


Busan.iz

"High School Old Class" by Sona Park
Culture Article Honorable Mention
Yale Daily News International Journalism Symposium
April 24 – 25, 2021

Relief's Map Advertisement Video Contest

Let's celebrate Ewon, Chiyeon, Hyunjun, and Lucy in grade 11. They submitted a video for consideration to the "Relief's Map Advertisement Video Contest", (UCC - 2021 릴리의지도 공모전 Relief's Map). The promotional video advertised for an app that detects hidden cameras. They placed in the top 8!



입 선

성명 김이원 박신영
박현준 이치연

위 사람은 (주)에스프레스토의
2021년 UCC공모전에서
우수한 실적을 기록했기에 상장과
부상을 수여합니다.

(주)에스프레스토 대표이사 손 동 현

2021.4.1

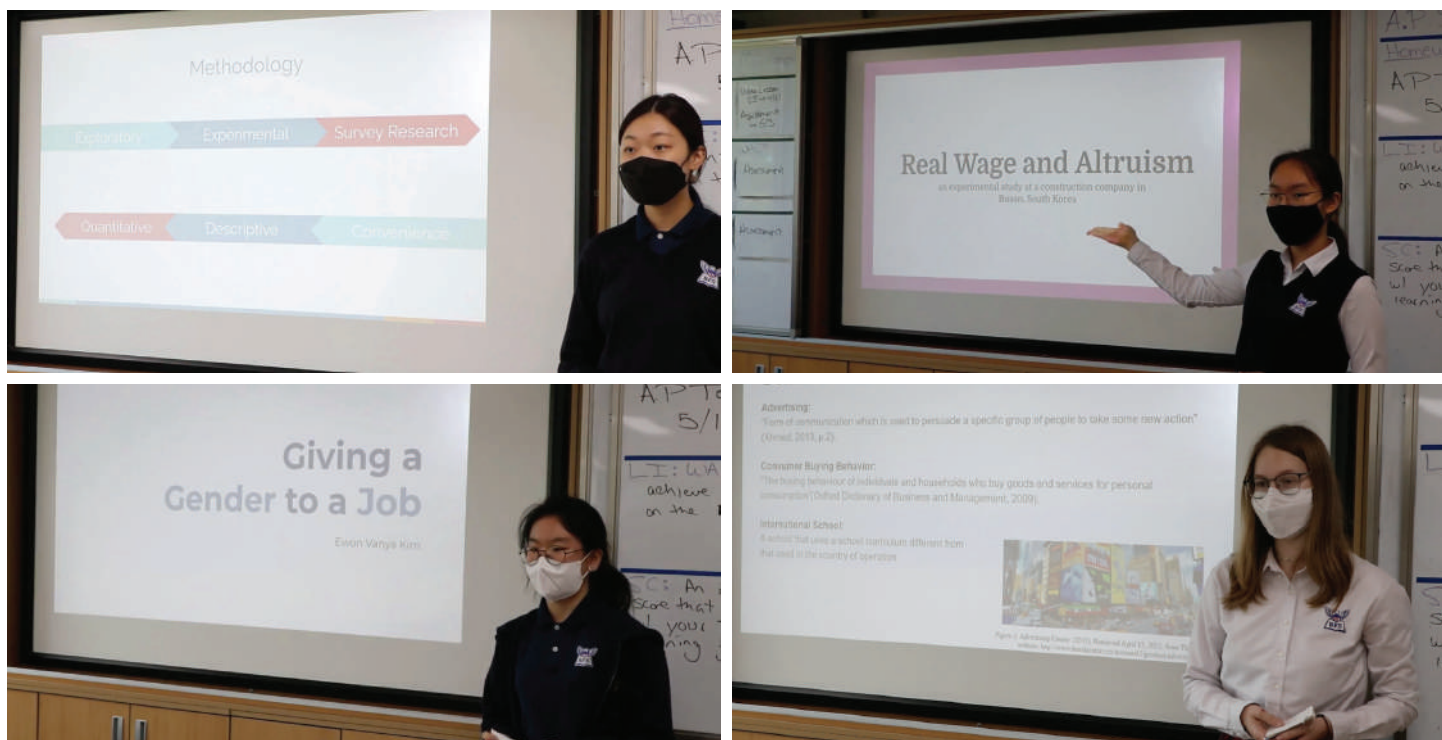
BFS Dance Club - Palette “Colors” Concert

Palette’s third concert was so successful! Palette held their third concert over two days: 4/22 Thursday MS lunch break and 4/23 Friday HS lunch break. A donation box was placed for the spectators to donate for the Cure Salon. Great job Palette!



AP Research Class

Our AP Research students finished presenting their papers. This signifies the end of one year research, critical thinking, and analysis on a topic of their choice. Congratulations Ewon, Michelle, Lucy and Jasmin. You are well equipped to take your learning to the next level.



Clara An Wins 1st Prize at the V. Horowitz in Memoriam International Piano Competition 2021

Congratulations to Clara An (9th grade) for being awarded 1st prize at V. Horowitz in Memoriam International Piano Competition 2021. Clara is passionate about her piano and practices 5 to 6 hours every day after school. We are so proud of you and can't wait to hear more!



Chopin op.10 nr.4



Sibelius no.5 in B minor 1

Middle School Computer Science: MSCS Chatbots

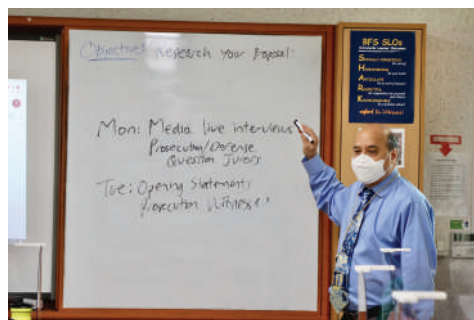
Over the past few weeks, Dr. Barnes' Middle School Computer Science students have been learning the basics about Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. For their first independent project of the unit, students created a chatbot where a user can have a discussion with a virtual character about a handful of topics of which the character knows about. Students used a supervised learning model in conjunction with the Scratch programming language to teach their chatbots how to speak with a user.

On Friday, May 7th, the middle school chatbot designers had a chance to showcase their projects and learning to high school computer science students, highlighting what makes each chatbot unique and what must happen behind the scenes in order to have a fully working program!



Asian History Class Guest Speaker: Nathaniel Norton

We would like to thank Nathaniel Norton for visiting our Asian history class. Nathaniel spoke and gave some useful tips to students for their My Lai Massacre mock trial.



GECMUN Awards

And the GECMUN VI awards go to ...

- Michelle Moon for Chairing the Iranian Hostage Crisis Committee,
 - Misha Ivaschenko & Bella Kim for Outstanding Delegates.
- Congratulations!



Letter Jacket

Grades 6 through 12: order your BFS letter jacket now! Order Form Link: <https://bit.ly/2PEvgsm>
The jacket will include: BFS and Shark Logos, your name, your number, and a big S for "Sharks"!

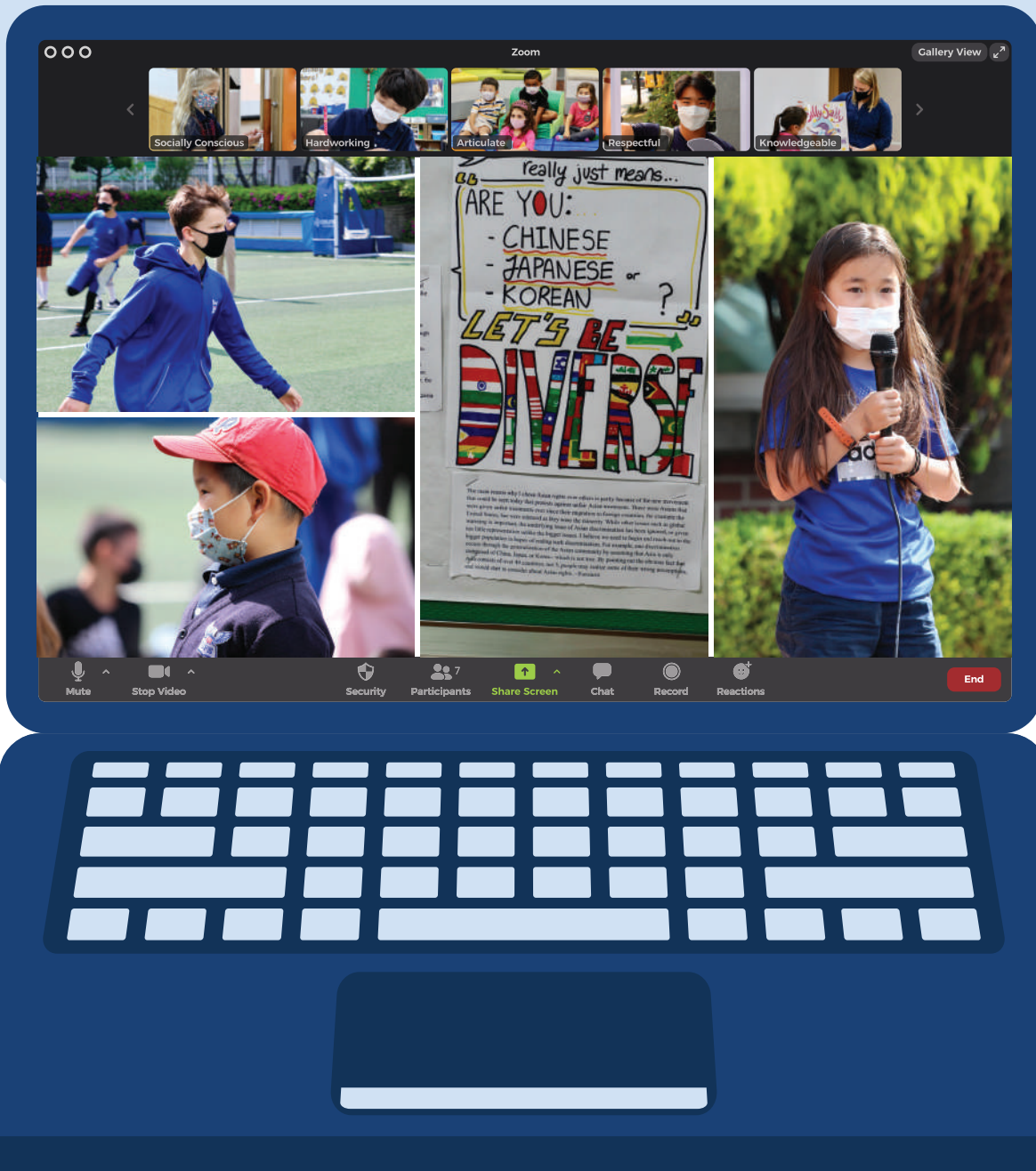


Scan here
to order your jacket!

IMAGES OF THE MONTH



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