



THE DP EXPRESS

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT-LED OKINAWA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*NOTE: THIS NEWSLETTER COMBINES THE NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH AS SPRING BREAK FOR OIS WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 18, 2022.

DP Information

BY KIRARA TAKEKURA (DP2 STUDENT)

As introduced in the previous newsletter, students may utilize an online system called PAMOJA as an alternative for Visual Arts. PAMOJA offers 14 subjects from the IB diploma program and supports students who wish to take the subjects that are not offered in their schools. Every week, the teacher provides students with discussion tasks, reading assignments, worksheets, and tutorial videos to complete by the following week. Through PAMOJA, students can interact with other students from different countries, and experience self-directory education, which will prepare the students for their university lives and future career paths. The current DP1 students, Kelly and I, take Economics Higher Level on PAMOJA. Although we have encountered a few technical difficulties before, we both enjoy learning the subject we are passionate about. Furthermore, utilizing digital technology as the educational platform gives us an opportunity for us to enhance our self-management skills, as you must manage your assignments and assessments by yourself, as well as plan your own study schedules. Therefore, although the students may face challenges in terms of being independent and responsible for their own learning, PAMOJA is a great system that allows students to take the subject they are passionate about, and also to prepare the students for university.

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Russo-Ukrainian War

BY KIRARA TAKEKURA (DP2 STUDENT) & SUBIN SHIN (DP2 STUDENT)

What exactly is going on?

The world news that will be discussed in this newsletter is the current war between Russia and Ukraine. Although military confrontations began in 2014, the conflict was exacerbated when the Russian military built upon the Russian-Ukrainian border in 2021, followed by the Russian attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022. The dispute arose in 2013 when Ukraine was coerced by Russia not to sign the associated treaty with the European Union (EU). Russia expressed its opposition by seizing the southern region of Crimea in 2014. However, Ukraine has elucidated its desire to join the EU and The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), an alliance made initially for collective security, which Russia strongly resists. This is the fundamental cause of the current Russo-Ukraine war.

Agnes Callamard, the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, remarked that “The [Russian] invasion has triggered a huge human right, humanitarian, and displacement crisis that has the makings of the worst such catastrophe in recent European history. Russia is breaching the sovereignty of Ukraine and challenging the global security architecture.” It is pertinent that we, as citizens of a global community, think about this statement and about wars more than ever. President Vladimir Putin's decision to risk world peace and engage in a war not only invaded Ukraine, but also the human rights of Ukrainians. The civilian casualty reported on March 12 by the United Nations is 1,581, with 579 killed and 1,002 injured. Children are forcefully separated from their parents, fathers are deployed to defend their country, and children's hospitals are being attacked. Young Russian soldiers were conscripted to participate in a military operation but now they are fighting for their lives at the front without a justifiable cause, separated from their families. This war does not benefit either party. The consequences civilians and soldiers have to bear are too grave and unfair.

References:

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Amnesty International. (March 1, 2022). *Russia/Ukraine: Invasion of Ukraine is an act of aggression and human rights catastrophe*. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/03/russia-ukraine-invasion-of-ukraine-is-an-act-of-aggression-and-human-rights-catastrophe/>

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A still from the film *The Book Thief*

BOOK REC: *THE BOOK THIEF*

BY SUBIN SHIN (DP2 STUDENT)

Book: *The Book Thief* (2005)

Author: Markus Zusak

Genre: Young Adult, Historical Fiction

My rating: ★★★★★ / 5

Here is a small fact: You are going to die.

1939. Nazi Germany. Death has never been busier.

Nine-year-old Liesel Meminger, given up by her mother, is on the way to the small town of Molching to live with Hans and Rosa Hubermann. Her brother dies on the train on the way to Molching, and Death meets Liesel for the first time, but she is not so submissive. For Liesel who has had nightmares for months, Hans comforts her and teaches her how to read, starting with a book Liesel stole from one of the gravediggers at her brother's funeral. She meets Rudy, a boy next door, and her journey to find security and love for language begins.

“I have hated words and I have loved them, and I hope I have made them right.”

This book is a riveting tale about books, friendship, and humanity in a time of war. It hauls you into the story from the first chapter. Readers get an unordinary experience as Death narrates the story, provided that no one ever knows when it would come for any of the characters. I first read this book in 8th grade, and it instantly became one of my favorite books not only because it got me into reading, but also because I was touched by the strong will of the protagonist to survive in such a dismal time. I specifically selected this book as this month's recommendation because I hoped all of us could still be able to believe in humanity and love in the events we see on news these days. War is terrifying, especially the ones with no justification or cause. Liesel's life may seem tragic and something far from what you would usually expect from historical fiction, but the kindness and warmth are what really make this novel worth your time.