

# WE ! OTC

## OASIS TRAINING CENTER



**Easter**, annual festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the most important feast of the Christian year. Easter is a joyous occasion because on this day Christians celebrate Christ's victory

over death. To those who believe in Christ, Easter also symbolizes their own participation in his death and rebirth to a new life.

### When is Easter?

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Thus, for Western churches the earliest possible date of Easter is March 22 and the latest possible date is April 25.

Easter is the central point in a long season of religious observances. It is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of penitence and prayer observed by many Christians. Among Western churches, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the last day of Holy Week, which immediately precedes Easter Sunday. The Easter Season lasts until Trinity Sunday, the eighth Sunday after Easter.

Rooted in ancient tradition and centered on impressive church services, Easter is primarily a religious festival. However, many customs of the season are less serious in nature and have more to do with the beginning of spring. Painting eggs in bright colors with pretty designs is a popular Easter pastime that particularly delights children. Other customs include various Easter foods, the practice of wearing new clothes on Easter Sunday, and the traditional Easter egg hunts and Easter rabbits.

Around the time of the Civil War, Americans began to celebrate Easter in much the same manner as Europeans, with children building nests for the Easter bunny to fill with eggs. Since that time, Easter has become a major religious and secular celebration in the U.S.

### Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny, a popular image of the holiday, originated with the hare, an ancient symbol for the moon. According to legend, the bunny was originally a large, handsome bird belonging to Eostre, the Goddess of

Spring. (Eostre is also known as Ostara, a Goddess of fertility who is celebrated at the time of the Spring equinox.) She changed the bird into a rabbit, which explains why the Easter bunny builds a nest and fills it with colored eggs. The first edible Easter bunnies were made in Germany during the early 1800s. They were made of pastry and sugar.

### Easter Egg

The egg is another popular symbol of Easter. Eggs were dyed and eaten during spring festivals in ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome. Colored eggs were not associated with Easter until the 15th century. Many Americans follow old traditions of coloring hard-boiled eggs and giving children baskets of candy. On the next day, Easter Monday, the president of the United States holds an annual Easter egg hunt on the White House lawn for young children.

### White Lily

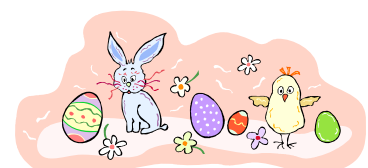
The white lily, the symbol of the resurrection, is the typical Easter flower. The white lily stands for purity. Artists for centuries have pictured the angel Gabriel coming to the Virgin Mary with a spray of lilies in his hand, to announce that she is to be the mother of the Christ child. The white Madonna lily was used for years as the Easter lily. It often failed to bloom in time for Easter, however, and so Bermuda, or white trumpet, lily was substituted. The Bermuda lily was brought to the United States from Bermuda in the 1880s by Mrs. Thomas P. Sargent of Philadelphia, and it has become a mainstay of Easter floral arrangements and church decorations.

### Easter Candles

Easter Candles are sometimes lit in churches on the eve of Easter Sunday. Some believe that these can be directly linked to the Pagan customs of lighting bonfires at this time of year to welcome the rebirth/resurrection of the sun God.

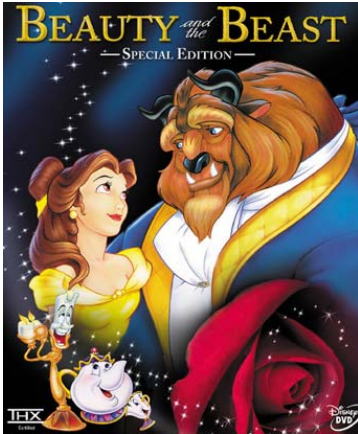
*Information from Internet*

*Arranged by Crystal Ge*



## Beauty and the Beast !!!

By Crystal Ge



Drama is a class, which only opens for grade two students in their seventh quarter. This class can help the students with their speech, pronunciation, poise, and help them to be comfortable in front of people. The play that the grade two students are going to perform is chosen by the teachers. It takes a quarter's practice before the final performance shows at the end of the seventh

quarter.

Do you know the true love story, *Beauty and the Beast*? Ms. Barbara and Mackenzie choose this well-known fairy tale as the play to perform this year. And this play is very different from the ones that have been performed before. Choosing a suitable play is a hard thing. The play must be easy for the English learners who are studying it as their

second language to understand. A lot of plays are vague and difficult to understand if you are not familiar with the background. Finally, teachers decided to use *Beauty and the Beast* because this is a famous story which people are familiar with, and a good one to try. Mary Ma, one of the graduates found the script on the Internet and teachers made changes to it because it was too long and had a lot of music.

The teachers who helped drama class dedicated a lot of time to it. With their help, the play is going well. A brilliant final play will be put on the stage on April 28.



## Egg Party—Easter

By Crystal Ge



shining and the rain stopped at noon.

A day before the day to celebrate Easter, the teachers boiled eggs. While the students were dyeing and designing their own eggs, the teachers and interns were putting candies in the plastic eggs. Those eggs were hidden in the school garden by some of the teachers and interns before the egg hunting activity began. Knowing the instruction of the activity was the first step of the game. After the students got the idea of what they were going to do, they rushed downstairs so that they could find more eggs. Some of the eggs were easy to find, but some of them would take

The actual Easter day this year was April 8<sup>th</sup>, but OTC had their own celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup>. It was raining in the morning so we were afraid that the egg hunting activity would be canceled. It seemed God did a favor for us, the sun was

a lot of effort. The students had a lot of fun while they were finding eggs. We could see their excitement on their faces. The happiest people must be the winners, Derek Wang, Jesse Zhu, Peter Fan and Selina Li. Each of them found more than twenty eggs; Jesse Zhu even got thirty-one eggs. There are twelve special plastic eggs with a symbol inside, which told us why we celebrate Easter.

The group activity of discussing the Easter story and the movie showed at the Big Apple later helped the students understand this festival.



## Race Divide

By Jesse Zhu



There are several ways for us to divide people into groups, like gender, age, rich, poor or educated, etc. One thing I want to talk about is the unfair divide---race. Everyone knows that there are three different races in the world. They are white, yellow and black. In the past, many of the black people were slaves for white people. They had a low social status and were discriminated against, but things are changing now. Not all of the black people are poor, just like these who play in the National Basketball Association or NBA. Ninety per cent of the play-

ers in the NBA are black people, and most of the NBA stars are black, for example: McGrady and Kobe Bryant. Their status is changing; more and more people are changing their minds. Also in the past none of the black people could be the president, but now they can, they have the same standing as we do. Just like the UN General Kofi Anna, although he is black, he is the general. So here I want to call on those who still have the mind of race discrimination "Everybody should have the equal social status, and nobody can insult others just because of their race."

## Basketball Competition

By Levi Wang

Since we don't have PE class this semester, we seldom exercise outside. I guess that's why most of our classmates got sick. The competition was really a good match on Monday and Tuesday. Our captain James organized us. All of the boys were supposed to take part. We also had our girls as cheerleaders. We played for two afternoons, and we won both. Those were two hard competitions, though. Through this activity, I realize that we need to work together no matter what we do. Teamwork is very important. It gave all of the OTC boys a good chance to relax and learn something that we can't simply learn from

books. We've got to understand each other, help each other, and work together. In school, we need to help each other to learn too.



## How do I Feel...

By Juliana Zhou



Everyone is busy preparing their stuff and homework for drama. It looks like everyone is very responsible and they are trying their best to find the props which they need; they are trying their best to create their own advertisement of drama. Everyone's motivation is very positive. So from this, I noticed that all of the grade two students who will graduate in the near future value

each second and do more. Suddenly, I felt a little regret because I didn't treasure my leisure time and use it wisely

before. Everyone usually says that she/he needs more time to study recently. So do I; I feel there is not enough time for me to do my work. I really want to learn more at OTC. I dreamed about many study competitions or other activities frequently during the night. I think there is not enough knowledge and time to my brain and my life. However, I should have a positive attitude to face the present perspective. Neglect is unnecessary for my real life, preparing for my tomorrow is the most important job for me to do. So I should do my responsibilities with a smile and balanced attitude. This is my plan.

## Graphic Design

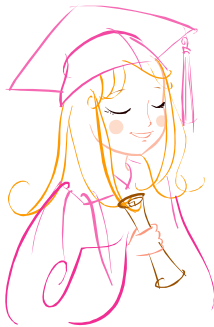
By Agnes Wei

During this quarter, computer class became the class I like most. We are learning to design pictures and photos. All of these give me great pleasure, because I like drawing. Yesterday we made a picture of Mr. Chris's brother. We changed his brother's head into a cat but the mouth, so he became a funny cat man with a yellow beard. I think graphic design is the most important thing in the future for me. I can use this skill to get a job that I like in order to make my dream come true. I hope one day I can be a famous designer. Every day I am excited about the computer class.



## My Complex Mood

By Betty Jing



Facing graduation, I am very anxious about how to find a suitable job for myself, and how to face the challenges that I am going to meet in the complex society. I am very regretful that I didn't invest all of my energy and time into my study. I just learned a little bit of knowledge. I am very worried about the other applicants who have a very strong diploma, and also have a good ability and wide knowledge in the human resource market, if I compared with them, I think I just could be fired by all of the bosses. My future does not just belong to myself, but also can affect my parents and all of the people who really love me. My fate is not only important for me, it also very important for my parents, so I need to make great efforts to change my life in the future.



## Just for Daniel & Joshua

*Daniel and Joshua will go back to America soon. They had a wonderful time with the other teachers and students while they were here. The following paragraphs are the things that they want to share with you guys. 😊*

OTC Students,

You know that I will go back to America this week. For over a year I was able see you every day and become your friend. I know that my heart will feel quite sad when I can't see you anymore. Please remember to respect and love one another. Soon you will leave OTC and move into the real world. I am sure both good and bad things will come into your life but if you continue to respect and love the people around you everything will be ok. Thank you for being so kind to me. You are all crazy students and many of you are very similar to Zhu Ba Jie. I love you.

Your friend,

Daniel

Dear Students and Staff of OTC,

It's been a great year here at OTC. We have had many exciting times together. I can remember when the year first began and how shy many of you were. But in just a short time, we have all become good friends. I am so glad to have met each and every one of you and I am excited to see what the future holds for us all! I know that, just like you, I will never forget this year at OTC.

Joshua Tullis

