English Clubs

English Clubs will be starting again soon! Last year we had a Moviemakers Club, a Media Club, English Chanters, a Storytelling Club and a Musical Theatre Club. These were all carried out with great success, with students learning a host of different skills; and getting many opportunities to use the English language.

Keep an eye out for notices informing you when the Clubs will begin; and for audition dates.

Did you know...

tongue twisters are great for improving enunciation in a fun way? Here are some tongue twisters you can try saying. Hold a tongue twister competition with your family and friends!

I saw Susie sitting in a shoe shine shop.
Where she sits she shines, and where she shines she sits.

The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday.

Clean clams crammed in clean cans.

Welcome to the first issue of PEN for this academic year and a warm welcome to all our new students and parents! Also, a happy national day to all our readers! I trust everyone had a lovely, relaxing summer break. It always makes the teachers feel a little nostalgic when we see how much the students have grown over the summer holiday.

The usual PEN format continues this year, with different grade levels giving readers a peek into what is going on in the classrooms. This year, IL, or Inquiry Learning, will also be included in our monthly PEN issues. IL is a subject taught to Grade 6 students and is inquiry-based. You can read more about IL in this issue of PEN.

Have you ever thought about who your ancestors are? The Grade 6 students spent a lot of time finding out who they are and where they come from in their first module – Native Americans (and Aboriginal Peoples). Grade 1 students are bonding beautifully thanks to activities which help them learn more about one another. If you would like to know about planet Earth and what are some things you can do to be ‘green’, the Grade 4 students are the people you should ask. They are not only learning about the rainforest, but also about the importance of protecting the environment. Read on to learn more about what is going on in all our English lessons!

Would you like some tips on how to encourage your child to be a better reader? You will find plenty of ideas in this issue.

Happy reading!!

Ms Jennifer Lopez
Primary English Panel Head
Grade 1

Getting to know one another

It has been almost one month since school started in August. The students were so shy and quiet in the first week but after getting used to the school and its routine, they are no longer passive! Keep on reading and you are going to know why 😊

Our Grade One students had a lot of fun while working on their own profile page in the LAB (Learning Activity Booklet). We first brainstormed some
adjectives to describe their eyes and hair. We got some very good adjectives like ‘beautiful’ and ‘wonderful’ (one kid described his hair as messy! Ha ha!).

After finishing their profile page, they were like little reporters interviewing their classmates! They asked one another “How old are you?” “What is your favourite food?” and “Who is your best friend?” etc. They enjoyed the process a lot; and this exercise boosted their speaking confidence too!

The most important outcome is THEY MADE FRIENDS AND NOW PLAY WELL TOGETHER DURING RECESS TIME!
After settling into the school routines after a long summer holiday, the Grade 2’s have been busy leaping straight into the first module: *Festivals around the World*. The children have been thinking about all the festivals they know and how they celebrate them. We had so many ideas that we decided to create group mind maps to share our knowledge and experiences. We had lots of fun trying to think of all the festivals, ways in which they are celebrated and why they are celebrated. Each group then presented their finished mind map to the class.

Now we are looking forward to researching some of the festivals in more depth throughout the module and, of course, celebrating them together in class!
We are now in the middle of the first module “Literature from Around the World”. Since the beginning of this school term, we have been looking at different classic stories.

Last week, we chose one of our favourite stories and made a poster of it! In the poster, we wrote the Beginning, Middle and Ending of the story. We also drew some pictures for each part to illustrate the story and make the poster more interesting and attractive.

After we finished our poster, we presented it to the class. Everyone in the classroom enjoyed our presentation so much! We have chosen our favourite poster. What about you? Which one do you like the most?
Through this activity, we were able to practise our writing skills, cooperation skills and presentation skills. Although it was a challenging task for us, we tried our very best and we did a wonderful job!!!

We are so proud of ourselves!!
Before working on our first module “Rainforest”, we learnt about different planets in the Solar System. We helped different planets to think of a nickname because they are all unique and special!

In order to help ourselves find out more about the planets, we worked in small groups and researched different planets. We also put the amazing facts on a poster to let our friends learn more about planets. Let us give you a short quiz!

**Which planet is a fire ball?**

- Earth
- Mercury

**Which is the ‘luckiest’ planet in the Solar System?**

After learning more about the planets, we are going to focus on our Planet Earth.

We are going to find out why the fat belly of Earth is always the hottest part and why the Earth gets dizzy all the time. Do you have anything about Earth that you would like to find out? Join us!
September is a very busy month for Grade Five! In addition to starting a new year, beginning a new module in English and learning to deal with new classmates, Grade Fives also have a special weekly computer class that they attend!

Of course, before we talk about the classes, let’s have a look at the teachers for this year!

From left to right:
Mr. Patrick BROUSSEAU
Ms. Eda CHAN
Ms. Joanna CHEUNG (not available on picture day)
Ms. Jacqueline LAU
Ms. Phoebe YEUNG

All of us are quite excited to be teaching our first module, Secrets and Spies! Join us as we delve into the dark, devious world of international intrigue.

The cook who prepared your food is actually a SPY.
and espionage as we learn about disguises, codes, spies and spy agencies throughout history. In addition to being the unifying theme of our first module which should last until the end of November, it also ties in with a special programme started just this year – E-Learning or Computers in Education.

Spies use secret codes to communicate, but did you know that computers also do the same thing? Learning this secret code, called “binary”, is just one of the many things Grade 5’s will experience during their weekly 9-workshop course. They have already learned about how computers work from the inside out, plus how to connect all the wires and cables at the back. The main focus is more on how to use computers to work together for learning, which will come after these introductory lessons.
Grade 6

Aboriginal Peoples

Have you ever thought of the questions above? Where did your family come from? The first module for Grade 6 is Native Americans. As an introduction to this module, students conducted a mini-survey with their parents and grandparents. They asked them about their lives in the past. Then they made a family tree based on the information they collected. Through this activity, they
moved on to the main theme of this module ~ Aboriginal peoples. The curriculum focuses on the Iroquois and the Algonquins of North America. Students will expand their knowledge on their societies, roles of men and women, cultures, customs and so on.

Learning about the traditions of the Aboriginal people makes us think hard about the rights of people who were there first, before the settlers came. This does not just apply to North America – we can apply it to New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and even China. It also helps us understand the differences between cultures and makes us more tolerant towards different people.

Let’s take a look at some family trees.
The English Performing Arts Department is planning to stage a dramatic performance of Mulan, the feisty village girl who rises to the occasion and saves the Emperor and all of China from the Huns and brings great honour to her family. It is a swashbuckling tale filled with fighting, singing, crazy escapades and even a little romance thrown in. So as you can expect the EPA team is quite busy setting all the plans into motion!

As is our custom, Grade 5 are the ones who will put this on as part of a culmination of their five years of EPA lessons as in G6 they have Inquiry Learning instead of EPA. We have set to work on auditioning the students and will split them into three different groups: actors, dancers and singers.

Each group will get intense training to make sure they will be ready for the performance; and with every one of the 167 students involved it is sure to be a great spectacle! This performance will be open to everybody and will be held on a Friday evening in early June so WATCH THIS SPACE!
Inquiry Learning is a new subject to help our Grade 6 students prepare for their secondary classes. This subject aims to equip our students with the study skills required for secondary. Students will learn various research and inquiry skills through the different topics of the modules and we hope that students can gradually begin to learn autonomously in their secondary school-life.

Students will get to know their strengths and weaknesses in different learning areas, and also they will learn about ways to improve their learning. Secondary curricula in Integrated Science and Social Studies (History and Geography) will be introduced to our students. In addition, Grade 7 textbooks will be used as learning aids to help them in getting familiar with the language used in the secondary subjects and the ways of learning in secondary.

There are altogether 3 modules throughout the year:

Module 1 International History

Module 2 Integrated Science

Module 3 Hong Kong Geography

A group project is followed upon completion of each module. There will also be small quizzes, group discussion, and reflection writing during the year to assess the learning progress of our students.

18th September G1 Open Day
Here are some tips for you to try with your child at home. They are meant to encourage your child to read more, in a fun and relaxing way. Try out the tips and see which suit your child best.

Read Everywhere!

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait. Leave the game boys at home! While waiting at the dentist’s, use the time to read with your child. Read road signs, supermarket labels, make up words on car license plates, etc.

Take your Time

Talking about reading is very important, so even if your child does not want to read to you, discussing books will also help develop reading skills.

You could talk about the cover; get your child to guess what the story will be about; have your child describe the pictures etc. instead of rushing into the story.

My Turn, Your Turn

Take turns reading aloud – word by word, paragraph by paragraph or page by page. Take turns making up a story!

Dig Deeper into the Story

Ask your child questions about what they have read e.g.

“How would you feel if you were Daisy and nobody wanted to play with you?”

“Can you think of a different ending for this story?”

“What is the main idea in the story?”

Talk, Talk, Talk

Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Mix interesting words into the talks, and build on words learnt previously.

Finally,

> Keep reading time pleasurable, relaxed and comfortable – with the TV turned off!
> Encourage your child to retell the story
> Take your child to the library often
> Let your child see you reading – parents are the best role models
> Do not push your child too hard – make reading fun as well as educational!
Hello, everyone! Let me introduce myself if you don’t know me already. I am Teacher Jacqueline. This is my third year teaching in Pui Kiu and I’m currently teaching Grade 1 and 5. I have always wanted to become a teacher as I like to be around children very much.

Let me share something about me with you. I went to high school and university in London, England. Not only did I learn a lot at school, I also met a lot of lovely people from all over the world. I got to visit different countries in Europe too.

Do come and say hi if you bump into me on campus! I would love to share stories with you. See you all around!

My students and I having some fun in Singapore!

This photo was taken last year after the “Pui Kiu Olympic Games”.
Do you want to learn how to walk, talk, sit, and act like a Princess? Then this book is for you. This little book from the “Princess Diaries” series tells us about how to do everything like a Princess. “Princess Lessons” gives you tips on beauty, good manners, fashion, education, and even guys.

I know you may wonder: But I’m not a princess. Do I still need Princess Lessons? Well, you might not be the princess of an actual country, but you will be able to wear a sparkly tiara with pride. If you are kind to others, considerate of the world around you, and as thoughtful as you can possibly be, you are truly a princess at heart.
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