Online Reading Programmes

Do you know that we have two online reading programmes for the primary students? One is Raz-Kids and the other is BookFlix. BookFlix is for Grades 1-4 and Raz-Kids is for Grades 5 and 6. We are currently using these programmes inside and outside the classroom. In the classroom, the programmes are used for intensive reading sessions where the book is closely studied and follow-up activities are completed as a class. Outside the classroom, students read extensively at home. We find these programmes very beneficial for the students as they provide a good variety of high-quality e-books; and they allow learning to be extended outside of the classroom.

Keep reading, students!

At a Glance

Our first term break is coming soon... and we cannot believe that time has flown by so quickly! As we all know, time flies when we’re having fun!!

So let’s take a look at some of the fun learning adventures and experiences that have been taking place in our English classrooms.

This month we have our usual Grade 1-6 peeks into the classroom; plus our EPA update. Inquiry Learning will give this month a miss but make up for it in the next PEN issue!

Some exciting experiences the students have been having are: reading stories which teach us important lessons; using adjectives to make our writing and speech rich and colourful; spying on others etc. The EPA team has a lovely write-up on the English Clubs we are carrying out this year. So read all about them!

Apart from what is going on in the classroom, the teachers are also busy preparing students for the Speech Festival. In addition to the usual Prose and Verse pieces, we are also entering a Grade 3 Choral Speaking team and an Improvised Dramatic Scenes team. We are sure the teachers and the students will do brilliantly at the Festival!

Have a fantastic weekend!

Ms. Jennifer Lopez

Primary English Panel Head
Grade 1

The grade one children have been learning to use *adjectives* (describing words) to make their writing more descriptive and interesting. They were asked to draw two pictures and think of some adjectives to describe what they drew. Let’s look at some of their drawings!

My students came up to me one day and asked who I like the most. I told them that I love all my students because each and every one of them is *special* and they are all so *smart* and *lovely*!

What adjectives would you use to describe yourself?

The Grade 2 students have been working on their Festivals module since September. It is such a fun and interesting theme. You can see how much our children enjoy it! This month, we have talked about the variety of festivals around the world, such as the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival and Vietnamese Trung Thu (Mid-fall Festival).

As Halloween was on October 31st, we also focused on Halloween and ‘scary’ poetry. It was so much fun
thinking of spooky words to use in our poems! The G2 teachers are very pleased with the students’ poems 😊. It was really amazing that our grade 2 students could write such fun acrostic poems about Halloween and use some interesting adjectives in their writing. We have loved sharing them with our friends in class!
Grade 3

Aesop’s Fables

Our Grade 3s continued their lessons on ‘Literature from Around the World’. Last month the main focus was on Aesop’s Fables; students enjoyed reading the interesting fables. Since each fable teaches a moral, reading the fables helps them learn some important values.
The Grade 3s have just finished their school project on Aesop’s Fables: they made the fables come to life by acting and retelling them. It was a good exercise to apply what they had just learnt.

**Poems**

Writing poems was another focus after Aesop’s Fables. Students learnt to appreciate the short lines with rhymes and rhythms. Through reading the chosen poems, they also learnt some writing techniques such as personification and simile. They were very smart and creative to apply these techniques in their poem writing exercise.

Well done!
Over the past few weeks, our Grade 4 students were exposed to the different layers of the rainforest and the animals and plants that live in each layer.
We did research, posters and presentations about the rainforest. We also started learning how to write a proper information report.

We wrote a few information reports in our Writing Journal already. The reports were about the rainforest animals and plants.

We needed to research relevant information ahead of time and we learned a lot about rainforest animals and plants.

To finish off with module one, we will do a short drama play; it’s called “The Kapok Tree”.
As we are getting to the end of our first module, can you remember what do spies do?

Of course! What spies do is find information that is supposed to be a secret; then they pass that on to their boss.

Why do their bosses want that information? ......

umm... once the bosses have the information, they can do many things with it – like protect their country in times of war, defend themselves from criminals, or take that no-good scoundrel to court with those interesting new photographs.
Look at us! We are having fun in the “SPY FASHION SHOW”. We are divided into groups. Each group focuses on a way of disguise, one of us will be the model and the other group mates help with preparing the costume and putting oh no! Who’s that suspicious-looking gentleman hiding in the buses? Could he be spying on you?
on make-up, then we share it with the class afterwards. What a great experience!
The grade 6 had a super fun month in October! We learned more about the Aboriginal people around the world and the Iroquois Confederacy. The Iroquois Confederacy is a group of Native Americans that consisted of six nations. They're the Seneca, the Mohawk, the Onondaga, the Cayuga, the Oneida and also the Tuscarora (the names of the nations are very unique, aren't they?)

On Friday, October 15th, some grade six students put on an amazing exhibition at school. They dressed
up as Native Americans and they shared with each other what they’ve learnt using powerpoints. They also made a longhouse (a structure that the Iroquois people live in) with bamboo sticks.

**Making the Wampum Belts**

Later on this month, we worked on making wampum belts. Different designs/symbols on the belt have different meanings. The wampum belts that we created were made of beads, colored rice and beans. We had a lot of fun doing this!
Well it’s nearly time for the **English Clubs** to start up again so we thought we’d give you a brief glimpse at what to expect!

### Story Bears!

Each week Teacher Eda will introduce a story book to the children; she’ll pique the imaginations of the students with her vibrant storytelling and then ask questions about the story to gauge their understanding. Finally they’ll either play a game based on the story or draw an illustration to go with it! The great news is that we’ll be making this available to grades 2 as well this year!

### The English Chanters

Following a year of many lovely performances, Teacher Candy is glad to again offer students a chance to learn many great English songs and perform in front of the school! If you are a song lover and would love an opportunity to share your sweet (or manly!) voice with the school, then this club is for you!

### Musical Theatre!

Teacher Samantha is proud to present her club, Musical Theatre, for all those students who love musicals! Combining acting with singing and dancing is a fun and furious affair so if you think you can do all three then sign on up, you’re sure to have a blast!
MASSIVE Media!

It’s the return of MASSIVE Media! Join Teacher Phoebe as she molds a team to make use of the different forms of media to plan and promote events during the school year! Last year MASSIVE Media did everything from make school announcements over the PA system to designing posters to advertise a school show. Join in the fun!

Moviemakers!

After completing “A Tiger Attacks Pui Kiu College” Mr Sarchet is ready to make a new movie and needs a group of students to help him! They will be able to storyboard ideas and collaboratively devise a new project to film and act in! When it's finished he’ll even give you a DVD of the movie so you can watch it whenever you want!

As you may notice there is no club for grade 5 students; this is because they are putting on a production of Mulan and will have plenty to do with that!

Due to the high demand of these clubs, all students will need to go through a simple audition process so be sure to read through the English Club letters that will be handed out soon. Moviemakers, Massive Media and Musical Theatre will start in November while Story Bears and The English Chanters will start later in the academic year.
Her first camping experience was in the UK. It was one of the biggest outdoor music festivals with a turn-up of more than 80,000 festival enthusiasts. Sleeping in a tent for three nights under the heavy rain and using the portable toilets and showers were so unforgettable for her.

She was on a choir tour in Moscow and was left alone in a chilly, dark and empty street for 30 minutes since her host family forgot to pick her up.

She’s been a fan of Manchester United since she was little and she made it to the Old Trafford to watch a home game ten years ago. She bumped into David Beckham when she visited the ManU Museum the day before the game!
She once played electric bass and her band performed in various venues in Hong Kong, including the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Who’s the featured teacher in this issue of PEN?

It’s me—Teacher Jennifer Yeung! 😊 I obtained my Bachelor’s degree in Music before I furthered my studies and received a postgraduate diploma in Education. This is my third year teaching in PKC. The students here are adorable and energetic. My heart melts when the little ones run to me and give me a sweet hug. Their smiles brighten my day. In addition to the lovely children, I’m also glad to work with a team of terrific people. They are professional and open-minded. I benefit a great deal from the collaboration with them.
In these three years, there are two things I remember the most. The first one is the Gingerbread Girl Musical. It was an original production performed by our Grade 6 students last year. I had the chance to prepare for the performance with the chorus and I had such a great time practicing with them. During the week before the show, we all wore the official T-shirt at school for the promotion. The performance ended very successfully and I was proud to be part of it.

The other most memorable thing is the surprise party my students threw for me on my last school day before I set off for a 4-week immersion course in Vancouver last April. It was supposed to be my party, but it turned out I was the one who entertained them! They asked me to sing 'Nobody' and 'Bad Romance' with a borrowed microphone and very loud music! It was really crazy but we had so much fun!

Music is my passion and it’s like the soundtrack of my life. I don’t think I can live without it. Last year, I took my first Yoga class and have amazingly fallen in love with it since then. I find peace and balance through the practice. There’s a lot to learn about the yoga philosophy and I’m looking forward to exploring more about it.
Jennifer’s Jittery Journals

Perhaps you may think that only men could be spies; however, after reading ‘Girl Undercover – Secrets’, you may have a different view. Jesse Sharpe is a 12-year old girl trained by secret organization C2 to trail suspects, plant bugs and kick the occasional bad-guys’ butt. The child prodigy and reluctant spy is on her first mission. She has to protect a young girl from a kidnap attempt. However, the more she investigates, the more she begins to suspect there’s something she hasn’t been told. What’s the secret behind this mission? Is she able to accomplish it? You can find out in this impish thriller.

For Grade 5 & 6 students
AROUND CAMPUS