Christmas is round the corner and as always, the English panel has a store of yuletide surprises and fun awaiting all the students! Read more about what we’ll be doing in the EPA section of this PEN issue.

Previous PEN issues have often covered interviews of students who have travelled during the holidays and term breaks. In this issue, we’ve decided to give that concept a new twist and get some teachers to talk about their term break trips. Read all about Korea, Japan and Taiwan and see what our teachers have been up to through their beautiful pictures!

In this issue, the Grade 1’s are busy studying about occupations. They have stretched their imaginations to produce wonderful stories revolving around different occupations; and these include puppets!

The Grade 2’s are learning about festivals and the legends surrounding Rama and Sita; and the Grade 3’s have become poets! Read about what the students at all grades have been up to in this issue!

Before I pen off, I’d like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a lovely New Year! See you in 2011!!

At a Glance

The Grade 6’s went off to camp last month (from the 25th - 26th of November) and from what they’ve written in their camp books, they enjoyed themselves tremendously! The campsite, near the Sai Kung Country Park, has a wonderful variety of outdoor activities which include basketball, soccer, swimming (although not in November), roller-blading, bicycling etc. It was gratifying to see students enjoying themselves so much outdoors. Apart from free time to enjoy the activities provided, students also participated in organised games which centred around teamwork and cooperation. It’s harder to say whether the teachers or the students had more fun! Find out more about the Grade 6 camp in the next issue of PEN!
This month in Grade 1 the children have been learning all about different occupations. We have been focusing on sorting the occupations into outdoor and indoor jobs, looking at the tools needed for each job and why each job is important within our community.

A very fun story we listened to was *Walter the Baker* by Eric Carle. This story is all about a baker called Walter who is the greatest baker in the kingdom. But one day Walter’s cat spills the milk so Walter has to use water instead of milk which made the bread as hard as a rock! After listening to the story, the children had a lot of fun thinking of their own characters for a similar story e.g. “Alan the Astronaut”, and “Whammy the Waiter”, and then making stick puppets for them! They created their own stories based on their puppet and had lots of fun sharing the stories with their class and friends. Some children even had the chance to share their story telling with some of the Grade 6 students. Take a look at the photos to see our puppets and the story telling sharing.
The G.2 students have been learning different festivals around the world. In the past few weeks, they learnt about Divali and Earth’s Day.

Divali is a Hindu festival. For Indians, it marks the beginning of the New Year. It’s a tradition for the Indians to open windows and light up divas (oil lamps) and candles during Divali. Why are oil lamps lit? It has its origin in the story “Rama and Sita”, in which Rama, the brave prince, was in war with a demon king with ten heads. In the end, good triumphed over evil and the people lit up divas as a way to welcome Rama and Sita’s return to the kingdom. During lessons, we learnt about the customs of Divali and retold the story of Rama and Sita using paper puppets that we made.
Earth Day is a festival for the whole world to celebrate. As an extended activity, the kids were asked to brainstorm a festival that the whole world could celebrate together and then write about it. They came up with some really interesting and creative festivals, for example, “No Homework Day”, “Non-stop Eating Day”, “Marshmallow Day”, “Healthy Day”, etc. It’s a pleasure to read their work! In addition, we also made some recycling and saving energy posters for the classroom, to remind everyone about the importance of protecting the environment.
Our Grade 3 students have become poets! They learnt different poetic techniques, like simile and personification in writing poems. As an introduction, they first learnt about different types of poems, such as couplets, diamond poems and Ballad Stanzas. Students found it interesting to read them and they had fun finding the rhyming words.

The grassland was as soft as a carpet…

The stars are blinking at me!

My friend is like a diamond!

The grassland was as soft as a carpet…

Students applied the techniques they learnt in their poems. Apart from individual work, they also worked in groups and presented their writing in class. Students came up with imaginative ideas and they learnt a lot in the writing process. Let’s take a look at their work.
Last month, we had our first excursion. Students had a chance to go to the public library. Through the guided tour, they learnt more about the book collection and the borrowing / returning procedure.

You will never be alone when you read a book. Keep immersing yourself in this magical world.
Grade 4

We have formally started the new module “Natural disasters, pollution and recycling”. In this module, students will learn to identify the cause and effect of different types of natural disasters and pollution. They will also try their best to implement an effective recycling system. Wow! What an exciting module it is!

In this first week of the module, students had a revision on weather. And they all learnt to be little weather reporters! They first watched a weather report to understand what a formal report is like and what elements have to be included (e.g. the highest and lowest temperatures and the weather of the day, relative humidity and UV index). After that they wrote their own script and finally it was SHOW TIME!
How did you spend your term break? Playing games, travelling somewhere or sleeping all day? Our grade 5 students had a rather fruitful holiday as they had their end-of-module project to work on.

Let’s play Board Games!

The project required students to make a board game about spies and secrecy, in which they had to apply what they have learnt in this module, like writing secret messages using coded letters and symbols, naming and telling lives of famous spies, and making their own maps with symbols.
The kids have put in their creative ideas into the board games. For example, some of them invented their own wheel of fortune using CD containers while some of them made their own money with their friends’ pictures on them.

Remember to go in any of the grade 5’s classrooms and play the game if you have time!
Grade 6

Module 1   Native Americans

G6 students learnt about Native Americans in Module 1. Students studied two Native American nations in detail – the Iroquois and the Algonquins. At the end of the Module, they needed to complete a power-point presentation on one of the topics above. Students learnt how to make the presentation on a computer and how to find information from different sources.

In the pictures above you can see some students proudly presenting their projects!
The end of Module 1 marks the beginning of Module 2 – The Wonders of Science.

This will prove to be an exciting module as students dabble in experiments to learn about Chemistry and Life Sciences. Some mysteries we are going to solve are – how our eyes can play tricks on us; and how can mashed bananas inflate a balloon.

All these exciting experiments will be accompanied by our usual assignments like Text Types, the Writing Journal and various listening, speaking and grammar tasks.

So watch this space for The Wonders of Science... coming soon in the January issue of PEN!
Winter is nigh upon us now and those first frosty chills have been felt by all. With Christmas and the New Year right around the corner it can only mean that it is time for one thing, English Week! English Week occurs twice a year, once in December (13\textsuperscript{th} - 17\textsuperscript{th}) and again in May (16\textsuperscript{th} – 20\textsuperscript{th}) and it is a chance for the students to completely immerse themselves in all things English. Each EPA class in grades 2 and 3 has already started work on their dramas, songs, poems and dances because in just a few more weeks they will perform them to the school. At every lunchtime recess, the students can come and watch their friends perform in the small assembly hall and it is always a treat!

This time round we are celebrating the festive season with a Christmas Postal Service! We will set up a postbox and every day the students can put in Christmas cards to send to their friends. The prefect team will work as Santa’s special helpers by delivering the mail to everyone! So make sure you all have plenty of cards because this will run from English Week till the end of term!
Inquiry Learning

Our G6 students have been working hard practising their reading skills in the past month and most of them have been able to perform well in scanning and skimming for information in different pieces of reading texts. At the beginning of December, we are going to do a group project to complete module 1 on World History. The students have already been asked to look up and collect a variety of information for the project. For instance, using the library resources to get library books and searching on the internet in order to help them to come up with a topic which they like and can relate to world history. They have 2 weeks for this project and they are going to do an oral presentation of their work after they finish. I am glad to say that some students have already begun!

Just before the Christmas holiday begins we will start module 2 on Science and students are going to learn about Science rules and safety and work together on some simple science experiments in this module. They are going to learn how to write up some simple science reports for these experiments as well. Topics include the process of photosynthesis, understanding the structure of animal cells and plant cells, and bringing in students’ awareness on the different parts of the male and female reproductive system. Students are also expected to work on a group project upon completing this module. Students are recommended to visit the website [http://www.youth.gov.hk](http://www.youth.gov.hk) and use the IL skill book as reference to help them for their group project.
Feature Teacher

Hi boys and girls!! I am Teacher ______.

Can you figure out who I am? Let me give you some hints.

I used to have 🧼 but now it’s gone!!

I am a G5 class teacher...

YES!!! You are right! I am Teacher Phoebe. This is my third year teaching in Pui Kiu College and I teach EPA and English.

I went to Australia to study when I was very small. However, after a few years, my mommy started to miss me a lot and asked me to come back. That’s why I spent most of my time studying in Hong Kong.

I am glad that I have a happy family. My father runs a restaurant and he always makes us yummy food. My mother is an accountant and my brother is an illustrator for magazines and newspapers.
My family and I share the same interest - we all love eating a lot. In the term break, I planned a trip for my family. I have always wanted to take them travelling around Japan and try the delicious food – Tempura, Ramen, Teppanyaki, Soba, Udon and of course, sushi.

We kept eating all the time and all of us have gained more than 10 pounds after the trip. HAHAHA~
Phoebe’s Precious Picks

When I was in high school, I loved reading “The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole”. It is a series of books and “Aged 13 3/4” is definitely the best of all.

Adrian Mole, the main character, was just an average boy. He started to keep a diary at the age of 13 3/4. He always thought that he was an intellectual and a good way to prove that was to write poetry. He fell in love with a rich girl called Pandora. He always wrote her love poems. However, Pandora thought that his poems didn’t make sense at all...

The book is written in the form of a diary in a humorous way. It covers a range of issues like bullying, peer pressure, caring for the elderly, first love and relationships with parents. Once you pick this book up, you will find it hard to put down.

Recommended for Grade 5 and 6 students.
Teacher Rae in Seoul!

안녕하세요! Annyeong-haseyo!! Do you know what it means? It’s the formal Korean greeting of saying "hello". During the term break, my family and I went to Korea for five days and it was such an amazing and fulfilling week. As you can see from the pictures below, we had a great time in Korea. By the end of the trip, my family and I were sad to leave.

So you’re probably wondering what we did for fun in South Korea. To make it short and simple, I listed out a few things that I noticed on my short stay.

1. Kimchi! (pickled cabbage/ radish)

Kimchi is traditional Korean food. It is made of vegetables with varied seasonings. At almost every meal, Koreans serve us spicy kimchi with a variety of other side dishes such as bean sprouts, bean curd and seaweed. When you order the main dish in Korea, all side items are absolutely free. Not only that, you can get free refills regardless of how many times you request more. Yum!
2. Friendly and loyal people

Koreans are very friendly people once you get to know them. And when you are in their circle of friendship, you are a friend for life. Most friendships with Koreans can last a lifetime.

3. Green city

Koreans take good care of their environment. People in Korea are well educated about environmental protection! Despite so many cars and so many tourists, it’s very hard to find any rubbish or a piece of litter in any part of the street. Amazing!

The years 2010 to 2012 are Visit Korea Years, perhaps you may also find your happy memories in Korea!
Teacher Virginia in Taiwan!

Over the term break, I had an exciting and wonderful trip with Teacher Angela, Teacher Karen and Teacher Jacqueline. We went to Kaohsiung and Kenting located in southwestern Taiwan. We stayed at a great hotel with an excellent seaview (I had a romantic time with the beautiful sunset) in Kenting. Teacher Karen and I were so glad to have a chance to sleep comfortably on a princess bed. We went to some lovely beaches and parks and took hundreds of fantastic photos. After saying goodbye to Kenting, we headed for Kaohsiung and went crazy shopping. We cherished every single moment staying at those huge stationery stores! We bought lots and lots of cute notebooks and cards.

The only regret of this trip was that I was allergic so I was not able to try the famous local seafood. 😞 But the Taiwanese dessert was marvelous and I have truly fallen for it.