Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a festive, yet restful Christmas holiday?

Before school broke up for the Christmas holiday, the English panel held a variety of ‘Christmassy’ activities to bring Christmas to Pui Kiu College. These activities coincided with English Week; and although Santa Claus only made an appearance on the last day of school instead of every day, the activities were a success! Most notably, our Christmas Post proved very popular and prefects were kept busy during recess times – delivering good wishes and Christmas cards to students and teachers alike. You can read more about English Week and the Christmas activities in this newsletter.

As promised, this issue of PEN has a write-up about the Grade 6 camp which took place in November 2010. Read about what the Grade 6 students did, and have a look at the photos!

Apart from English Week and the Grade 6 camp, we have the usual coverage of what’s going on in the classrooms. A quick read through PEN will show you the vast amount of valuable learning your child is doing in the classroom. The teachers spend an incredible amount of time planning lessons which are interactive, stimulating and purposeful.

As we will be on Chinese New Year break at the beginning of February, the next PEN issue will be on the 11th of February.

Have a great weekend!

Ms Jennifer Lopez
Grade 1

Our Community

Module 1 Our Community is coming to an end. For the past few weeks, the students were able to integrate new knowledge and vocabulary that they learnt in the module into their Home Project - Occupations. They used their hand-made puppets to show us the roles of different occupations and the tools that each occupation needs. We were glad to see the students have become more confident to speak in front of the class and they now have a growing awareness of their posture, voice and tone level. Well done!

Look! Some of the children even dressed up and brought their props with them to increase the interest level in their presentation. Let’s take a look at some of their great work!
Module 1 “Festivals Around the World” has come to an end and we have had lots of fun finding out about different and new festivals. We have learnt about the festivals through stories, non-fiction books and sharing personal experiences.

For the final project of the module, the children shared their favourite festivals with their classmates. Each child gave a presentation to the class demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of their chosen festival and their creativity and ability to present to an audience. We had lots of fun listening to reasons why we enjoy the festivals and how different families celebrate them. Take a look at the photographs to see some of the festivals we have been learning about.
Project for Module One

Our Grade 3s finished their project work for Module One at the end of November. The project was divided into two parts. The first part was to draw a 4-panel or 6-panel comic strip for a chosen story. The second part was to retell the chosen story by using the comic strips. Our 3rd graders showed creativity in their project work and most of them had prepared very well for their retelling. They showed marked improvement in their presentation skills. See how creative they were in drawing the comic strips!
The start of Module Two

The 3rd Graders have just started Module Two 'Different Countries.' They started in mid-December. In this module, students will learn how to find relevant information for a country. They will learn to write a letter and a postcard to their friends. It is an exciting module as students are to enhance their knowledge of diverse cultures and develop an appreciation for different customs and practices.
Grade 4 students at Pui Kiu College learn a lot of things; and most of it is done outside of the classroom.

In this module, students will be involved in a number of activities and project which will make them more aware of environmental issues and help them realise just how important recycling is.

The students work together cooperatively on this hands-on project. Students are discussing each other’s work and this short activity is a great way to get students familiar with the topics.

Students research various forms of natural disasters that occur around the world. In this natural disasters lesson, students research using Internet resources and create a PowerPoint presentation for images of natural disasters and cite the information.
Students study about natural disasters. In groups, they write an article and design a model of one type of natural disaster. They include how they occur, where they are found, and their effect on the environment.

These are few different kinds of group projects displayed by students.

Students worked in groups to brainstorm and list all the possible natural disasters.

Over the next few weeks students will be involved in two projects. In the first one, students will experiment about volcanoes and their eruptions. In this activity students will be divided into 6 groups with 4-5 students in each group. Students will make a model volcano using recycled materials such as plastic bottles and old newspapers.

In the second activity or project, students will collect litter from around the school and divide them into recyclable trash and non-recyclable trash. The goal is to promote solid waste reduction and its many aspects, which include reusing, recycling and litter prevention.
As an introduction to "Middle Ages Madness", the grade five students spent an afternoon in Tung Chung Fort exploring the remains of a fort that was built in the Southern Song dynasty.

There are six old muzzle-loading cannons in the fort, and surprisingly, they are still in one piece! Look at the diagram below. Where do you think the cannon-ball is loaded? If you think the cannons are loaded at the back, then you are wrong! In fact, for muzzle-loading cannons, the cannon-ball is loaded from the muzzle (at the front) of the barrel. Interesting, huh?
We walked along the high walls (yes! I mean walls) to get a better view of the fort. Along the wall, there are three arched gateways with Chinese inscription. The words are too blurred to be seen but we guess they are probably the names of the gateways.

Let's have a look at the beautiful pictures taken in Tung Chung Fort!
After learning about Aboriginal Peoples, our Grade 6 students are more aware of how people lived differently in the past; as well as of different cultures and traditions of different people. To give students an opportunity to further learn about the aboriginals of Hong Kong, the students explored the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum in Sai Kung. Students were asked to observe the homes and compare them with their own living environment. Students had a lot of interesting findings throughout this trip and have gained a greater appreciation of how fortunate they are now with air-conditioners, washing machines and computers!
Grade 6 Camp

Take five Grade 6 classes, almost two days of being outdoors engaging in various activities like soccer, basketball and roller-blading; one night of sleeping in a dormitory and hiding junk food from the teachers; a treasure hunt and challenging team-building games and what do you get? If you guessed the Grade 6 camp, you are right!!! (Or did you look at the title of this article?) On the 25th of November 2010, the Grade 6 students arrived at school in great excitement. They were going to spend a night camping in Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung! The focus of the camp was on learning to work as a team, develop self-management skills (taking care of one’s belongings, packing one’s bag) and display leadership traits. During their free time, students played in the playground, walked around with friends; built sandcastles; played table tennis or badminton etc. The first night saw students running frantically around the huge campsite in order to be the first to finish a treasure hunt. On the second day, students participated in three group activities that demanded they work as a team in order to come out tops!

Since a picture speaks a thousand words, here are some pictures for you to feast your eyes on!

We’re never too old to play in the sand!
This is not a barbecue! It’s a campfire! We shared our feelings that night.

A challenging team-building game where we had to use our toes and fingers to stop the water from spilling out!

Hey! 6M’s way in the back!! Can you see us?!!
Our little performers (Grade 2 and 3 students) had been working really hard in order to put on a good show for the audience. Different classes sang different songs or performed drama shows which were related to the theme – Christmas.

English Week was held for a week from Dec 13 to Dec 17 in the Small Assembly Hall.

Posters, dance, songs, drama shows, laughter, joy, excitement and of course, SPLENDID performances, all these elements make English Week an enjoyable and memorable event.
Some of the students turned themselves into snowmen; some of them dressed up as reindeer while some of them became Santa Claus!

Both the audience and the performers had a wonderful time. Some of them even said they are looking forward to the next English Week already!

Love is all around!

This year, the English Department held a new activity – The Christmas Post.

Simply put your love letter or Christmas card into the post box; then our postmen would help you deliver it to the person who you really care about.

Did you get any from your friends or teachers?
Hi everyone! I am Teacher Samantha. This is my third year teaching in Pui Kiu College. I have been waiting for this opportunity to introduce myself for ages. 😊
I graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama) in Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. As you know, I am an English Performing Arts Teacher. At the same time, I am an actress as well. Although I studied drama, I wanted to be a singer when I was young. Since my sisters are much older than me, I used to play alone very often. I didn’t have many toys so I had to create something new to entertain myself with. One of my favourite games was imitating the singers to sing and dance! How to imitate them? Haha… I recorded their music videos shown on TV! When there was nobody at home, I played the videos and followed the exact dance moves. I loved to sing loudly and dance energetically alone at home. Oops, you all know my secret now!!!

However, as time went on, I found my interest in acting instead. Therefore, I entered the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to study drama. I learnt acting, directing, dancing, singing, Chinese opera movements, miming, acrobatics and many other performing skills at school. It was so FUN! I enjoyed my school life so much!

Apart from performing, I have many hobbies as well. I love cooking, travelling and playing volleyball. Baking is one of my favourite things I do at home. I like to bake cakes, cookies, scones and even bread for my beloved family and friends. I feel so fulfilled and delighted when I see the satisfied smiles on their faces. I’d also love to make some yummy food for all of you if it’s possible! Yummy!!!!!!!! 😊
“Is it possible, that by telling these tales, one might indeed save one’s self?”

The character, Scheherazade thought so. In fact, she tells each of the Arabian Nights tales in order to survive a little longer at the mercy of her listener, the Sultan.

The Arabian Nights stories are some of the world’s great treasures. They have existed for thousands of years, consisting of tales told in Persia, Arabia, India and Asia. The Arabian Nights (also known as The 1001 Arabian Nights) have inspired writers the world over with the ancient power of story.

The Arabian Nights include fairy tales, fables, romances, farces, legends, and parables. The tales use a sweeping variety of settings, including Baghdad, Basrah, Cairo and Damascus, as well as China, Greece, India, North Africa and Turkey.

Recommended for Grades 5 and 6
Around School