At a Glance

Coming soon…

As we are constantly finding ways to celebrate student success, PEN is going to have a new section from the next issue onwards. Each issue will have a section specially dedicated to displaying student writing. The work displayed will have gone through the writing process of pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing and proofreading; and finally, publishing in PEN. So look out for this in the next issue!

Chinese New Year Celebrations

PEN is looking for students to tell us what they did over the Chinese New Year break.

If you’d like to share what you did and see yourself in the next PEN, please submit a short writing piece (about half an A4 size page) with photos, to your English teacher by the 24th of February.

We will publish as many entries as possible.

Happy Chinese New Year! All of us at PEN wish you and your family a happy year of the Rabbit!

This issue of PEN is published a little late – the second Friday of the month instead of the first – as we were all on break! Most of us, students and teachers alike, had a wonderful Chinese New Year break; and while we are happy to be back at school with friends and colleagues, it is also with a certain sadness that we say goodbye to the year of the Tiger...

Do you know the differences between living and non-living things? Have you ever thought about using a banana to blow up a balloon? How much do you know about Hong Kong? Do you know how to make a volcano erupt? What are some animals unique to Australia? To find answers to these questions, read on! You will not only get answers to those questions, but hopefully you will also be able to generate some questions of your own so you can look for answers!

Effective questioning is one of the cornerstones of classroom teaching that is used in English language lessons. Teachers constantly ask questions to stimulate students’ thought processes; generate discussion and guide students to think out of the box. Teachers also ask questions to gauge how much was learnt; and to review what was previously-learnt. It is just as important to get students to ask questions of their own, as this demonstrates thinking, active participation and engagement with the particular topic.

Other sections in this issue include a write-up on a new member of our team – Teacher Michelle; a peek into what is happening in Inquiry Learning classes; and a synopsis on the English Clubs which are already up and running!

Once again, let us wish each and every one of you a very happy new year!

Have a good weekend!

Ms Jennifer Lopez

Primary English Panel Head
We have officially started our second module “Our World”. Through this module, students will learn to respect, care and have concern for nature. In this first week, we learnt about the differences between living and non-living things. Students now understand that living things can grow, reproduce and need food 😊

To consolidate the concept (and to have some fun), we scheduled a visit to Tai Po Waterfront Park (1M, 1P) and Shatin Park (1B, 1C). However due to the cold weather, all four classes visited Shatin Park instead because we believed that it was warmer in Shatin than in Tai Po.

It turned out to be nice, warm weather on both days! And something interesting (or horrible) happened when we were at the entrance of the park! We bumped into a gorilla! It was a GIANT gorilla! We screamed so much and later realized that it did not intend to hurt us. It was very friendly and even waved its hand to say hello to us 😊

We had a nice walk at the park. We saw beautiful plants all around. We picked up some fallen leaves for leaf rubbing. Some kids shouted “Don’t pick the flowers! They are living things!” when they saw their friends being naughty.
Stop! Don’t put any leaves into your mouth!

Well, I like plants more!

Feed me rubbish!

Yum yum!

It is getting warmer and warmer...
We are all living in Hong Kong now; however, how much do you know about Hong Kong? Do you know how many people there are in Hong Kong? Which is the highest mountain in Hong Kong? Which harbour separates Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsula?

If you want to know more about Hong Kong, take a journey with our Grade 2 students and the new module ‘Hong Kong Our Home’. Recently the students have been exploring lots of information about Hong Kong by themselves. For example, they have collected many pictures about Hong Kong through different resources. Some of them also visited the Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui to interview tourists from different places and drew some special landmarks of Hong Kong. We believe that our Grade 2 students will know more about Hong Kong after this module. Let’s enjoy it together!
Information Sheet on Australia

In our Grade 3 Module – Different Countries, we learnt more about Australia through research. We worked very hard to look for information about Australia using the internet, books, newspapers and magazines. After researching, we learnt to organise the information that we gathered in a nice way.

While we were writing up the information sheet about Australia, we reminded ourselves to write in the simple present tense because we are talking about some facts about Australia.

Besides writing, we designed a kite which helps promote Australia as a beautiful country. We believe that if people see the kites with pictures about Australia flying in the sky, they will learn more about Australia. After finishing the information sheet, we presented our work in class. During the presentations, we learnt some presentation skills from one another. We are so proud of ourselves!
Over the past few weeks, our Grade 4 students were exposed to different kinds of natural disasters and pollution. We recently made posters on how some pollutants are affecting our bodies. We had lots of fun doing and presenting these posters. Here is some of our work.

We also went on an excursion to the Fanling Environmental Resource Centre. We learnt a lot about environmental protection and new ways to be environmentally friendly from the English guided tour. It was a fun trip!
Project Time!

For the end-of-module project, we had an inter-class exhibition in the hall. Students made a 3D volcano model or a 3R (reduce, recycle, reuse) promotion poster for display. During the exhibition, some students presented their work, some asked meaningful questions about the projects and everybody got to walk around to see all the displays. It was a wonderful learning experience!
Grade 5: Jolly January!

January is always a strange month at school. Christmas holidays are over and Chinese New Year is just a month away; who wants to do schoolwork? In fact, by the time everyone gets used to the school schedule again, it’s time to leave for two weeks! Not that we’re complaining, of course!

Have a look at this picture on the left. Looks like a newspaper, right? Actually, it’s an ebook reader called the Amazon Kindle that looks exactly like paper and ink! With devices such as these and tablet computers such as the iPad, I wonder how much longer it will be until carrying schoolbags full of books is a thing of the past? Until that day arrives, though, we’re trying to make sure students get the best of both worlds.

As part of Module 2, students have to use a variety of sources to find out about the social conditions of the time. This group of students is using both book and computer to find out the differences between the lives of high-class noble ladies and low-class peasant women. You can see some students on the left have headsets on; those who have finished early are working on their individual Raz-Kids accounts, a reading programme we use that allows students to listen to, silently read or say aloud a variety of books on a multitude of topics. Traditional books won’t be gone for a while yet, if ever, but we want to make sure our Grade 5 students are comfortable with both!
Here comes the most exciting part in Module 2 ~ the EXPERIMENTS!!  Our Grade 6 students explored the wonderful world of science through experiments which were demonstrated in the classroom, around campus and even in the science laboratory!

Students were asked to observe a spot on campus throughout the week. They took pictures and recorded the changes every day in their Change Log. Students were amazed by how the environment made an impact on living things. For example, the plant grew bigger, water disappeared on the leaf and the colour changed on the flower.

Can we blow up a balloon with a banana? Our Grade 6 students carried out the experiment in the classroom; however, it was not successfully done due to the very cold weather. Students insist that we do the experiment again to prove their hypothesis. We will do this experiment again in the summer months. Well done, Grade 6s! You can also try it at home, but make sure you can stand the bad smell coming from the rotting bananas!
What is better than carrying out a science experiment in the laboratory after all? Students did an experiment to find out what food colouring there is in chocolate beans. The results were surprising! Please ask them about it and they may give you some healthy eating tips.

During these few weeks, students were able to conduct different experiments with guidance from the teacher. For the end-of-module project, they have been asked to do a science experiment on their own and video-tape it. They will be assessed on the success of the experiment, presentation, group effort, and following of safety guidelines. We are looking forward to watching their videos!
In Inquiry Learning, our grade 6 students have begun the unit on Science and photosynthesis.

Students are conducting some simple experiments on Photosynthesis. The students did two experiments; in which they carried out the experiments in different groups. The first experiment they did was to test the necessary conditions for living things to grow and they used green beans to see if sunlight, water and air are necessary. They learnt about the conditions for things to grow through this experiment and that these conditions are the conditions for photosynthesis to occur.

Moreover, students learnt how to write up a simple lab report: they learnt the meanings of the terms which are used in writing up lab reports. In the lessons, they learnt how to write up a hypothesis, and the procedures which they need to follow to conduct an experiment. They also learnt to observe and compare differences in the findings of the experiment.

In addition to this, students were asked to do some readings on the topic and extend their answers for the experiment they did. It is recommended that students
use the readings they did to support their answers in the experiment and elaborate the answers by combining the information they have gathered with what they have observed. Then, based on the information they collected, they can analyze and synthesize the results. Students were also invited to make up their own hypothesis on the same topic on Photosynthesis in the next experiment.

Our next unit, which is on Antarctica, is going to begin. It is going to be a combined unit with Social Development and it is going to take 4 weeks in the I.L. schedule to complete. In this unit, students will learn map reading skills and information technology skills. There will be a field trip and a piece of project work upon completion of the unit. I sincerely hope the students will enjoy this coming unit.
The English Clubs have started!!
Let's see what we have been up to!

After auditions, Mr Sarchet selected eight Grade 6 students to be in the Moviemakers Club. Their task was to make a movie by themselves. Under Mr Sarchet's guidance, the students are currently busy brainstorming some funny ideas for the movie. The ideas will then be storyboarded. At the final stage, the movie will be shot and acted out by the students!

Massive Media

Grade 4 students can learn different promotional skills in this club. In the past few lessons, they learnt how to advertise a product through either acting or broadcasting. As the camera is the most popular tool in media, Teacher Phoebe has also started teaching the usage of different parts of a camera. In the above photos, they are practising how to use the function- 'micro flower' to capture a close-up image. They are all working seriously. Shhhh.....
Teacher Samantha has chosen a song, “Dancing Queen”, from the well-known musical – “Mamma Mia”. The Grade 3 and 4 Students are learning the lyrics and moves as they are going to sing and dance in a staged performance later on in the year. Some acting elements will also be added soon. Since they are performing an excerpt of the musical, the performance will be adapted to suit time constraints and the ability of the students.

English Chanters

The English Chanters is a group of G3 and G4 students who love music and English very much. Each year, they go through an audition in order to get into The English Chanters club. In each session, students learn singing skills as well as English from folk and pop songs. They meet once a week and perform twice a year.

Story Bear Club is COMING SOON!!!!!!!
How exciting! This is my first time introducing myself! For some of you who don’t know me yet, I am Teacher Michelle!

This is my first year teaching in Pui Kiu College and I am enjoying it very much! The students here are as sweet as chocolate! Every morning when I come to school, the students run up to me and say hi with the biggest and most adorable of smiles and that really makes me happy!

Since some of you don’t know much about me, myself! I moved to Australia with my family when I was 8 years old. I grew up in Australia and only moved to Hong Kong last year.

Have you been to Australia? It is a lovely place, very different from Hong Kong. Australia has many unique animals like koalas, kangaroos, wombats, platypus and lots more!
Hong Kong is very beautiful too! Hong Kong has a large variety of food and many good shopping spots! I love eating in Hong Kong because the food is so yummy!

‘Possum Magic’ is a very famous Australian book. The food, animals and cities mentioned are all from Australia!

This book is about two possums (possums are one of the many unique Australian animals). Their names are Hush and Grandma Poss. Grandma Poss practises bush magic. She turns Hush invisible to keep her safe from predators. One day Hush wants to know what she looks like and asks Grandma Poss to make her visible again. So the story begins with Hush and Grandma Poss travelling around Australia looking for a cure to make Hush visible again.

If you want to know more about Australia, this will be an interesting book for you!

Recommended for Grade 1 and 2 students