

Starfish



Lai King Catholic Secondary School

English Newsletter 2010-2011 ISSUE ONE

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Our English Department with 19 members



The Principal, Ms. Lo, and our English Teachers

Our English Department has shown remarkable advancement in recent years. Students' performances have been enhanced greatly through additional preparatory programmes and lessons. Ms. Shelia Wu has led the department as our English Panel Head for these past four years of excellent progress. With her previous experience as a Lecturer in Hang Seng School of Commerce, solid academic background with a distinction in her teaching diploma (CUHK) and a distinction in dissertation in her Master's Degree in Curriculum Studies (CUHK), Ms. Wu possesses sharp vision to diagnose students' needs and weaknesses, as well as the strengths of the teaching team to work out strategies for professional collaboration. This year, our English team has an amazing total of 19 teachers, including two NETs, namely Mrs. Perriween Tong from the U.S. and Ms. Harpreet Kaur from Hong Kong. They are both very friendly and caring, and students enjoy chatting with them during their free time. In classrooms, you can see them teaching junior form English classes and S1-S5 Oral lessons. They greatly help enrich the English environment at LKCSS. All of our English teachers have had teacher training in English Teaching, and we all know that they are skilled in dynamic ways, extremely dedicated and wonderfully caring. In addition, seven of them hold Master's Degrees in English-related disciplines.

Clearly, teachers and administrators at LKCSS love English learning and teaching. You will surely enjoy your studies at our school!



Ms. Shelia Wu
English Panel Head



Our Two NETs:
Ms. Harpreet Kaur & Mrs. Perriween Tong

The English Society

is chaired by Karen Kong Yan Nam from 6B this year and assisted by a group of committee members to help organize English activities. Teacher Advisors include Ms. Wu, Ms. Chow, Ms. Law, Ms. Kaur and Mr. Leung.



Committee of the English Society 2010-2011

6B	KONG YAN NAM	Chairperson
6B	CHAN YIN KWAN	Vice-Chairperson
6A	LI YIN YU	Treasurer
6B	CHU LAI NGO	Secretary
6B	LUK KIN HANG	Committee member
6B	TSANG WING SZE	Committee member
6B	CAI PIK YU	Committee member

They help with the Reading Aloud Programme, Song Dedications, Library Storytelling and Game Time at lunch. Let's get involved in the fun activities they will bring to students!

Upcoming English Activities at LKCSS

- ★ S1-S2 Reading Aloud Programme on Thursdays at lunch
- ★ 2-minute English Conversations in the Morning Assembly every day
- ★ Library Story Time
- ★ English Game Time at Lunch
- ★ S1-S3 after-school Enhancement and Revision Classes from Mon-Wed
- ★ S1 Storytelling Competition
- ★ S2 Mini-Drama Competition
- ★ S6 Inter-Group Debate
- ★ Inter-School English Talent Show

Reading Aloud Programme Thursdays at Lunch

The Reading Aloud Programme is now in its second year and continues to enhance students' English speaking abilities. All students in Forms 1 and 2 have been given their own copy of the latest Reading Aloud booklet, which includes 13 texts on high-interest topics, such as e-books, Hong Kong popular culture, journalists and the news, etc. Each week, students are taught an assigned passage by their English teacher, and after



lunch on Thursdays, they stay in their classrooms to read the text

aloud to a teacher or Student Ambassador. Our NETs also pre-record each text, and students are shown how to access the recordings on the e-class, in order to improve their delivery. Students can earn up to 3 marks and enter the Award Scheme with Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards given at the end of the school year. Last year, 37 Gold, 28 Silver and 45 Bronze awards were presented to S1 and S2 students. Check out the happy faces of the Gold Award Winners in the photo. Thanks go to all English teachers and students for their participation!



2009 - 2010 Gold Award Winners



Daily Morning Assemblies 2-Minute Conversations in English

Starting with all of the students in Form 7 and continuing with students in S6 down to S1, two or three students join together to share a 2-minute conversation with one of the NETs every day. Students write about high-interest weekly themes on healthy living, such as making friends, overcoming challenges, appreciating the beauty of nature, becoming successful people, etc. After our NETs do a final check for authenticity of English, they work with the students on delivery (pronunciation, intonation, etc.). In addition, students in Form 1 to Form 5 do reflective freewrites on these weekly themes.

2010 Oxbridge Summer English Camp



Under the English Enhancement Scheme funded by the EDB, an Oxbridge Summer English Camp is held in our school every year to promote better understanding and appreciation of different cultures between the young people of Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. Students' interest in learning English is boosted through a wide variety of fun learning activities, such as songs, games and dramas.

This 5-day programme is run by a team of tutors carefully selected from the graduates and undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, assisted by teaching assistants recruited from local universities, as well as the English teachers of our school. During the camp, the tutors hold interesting and interactive educational activities to ensure that all students are immersed in a pleasurable and relaxing learning environment.

On the last day of the camp, there was a Grand Closing Ceremony, in which all students proudly spoke, sang and acted on the stage and joyfully received their certificates and prizes.

TUTORS in 2010

Name	Institute	Major Subject
Andrew McCormack	Oxford	English Lit. & Language
Lewis Walmesley-Browne	Cambridge	Social & Political Sciences
Mardi MacGregor	Oxford	Law
Natalie Granger	Cambridge	Law
Solomon Roberts	Oxford	History
Tilly Browne	Cambridge	Social & Political Sciences



Reflection from a student

Before I joined the 2010 Oxbridge English Summer Camp, I felt frightened to use English to talk with others. After the camp started, however, I knew that, in fact, it was not scary at all. The most exciting part was that we acted in a drama together.

For the drama, we needed to decide what the story would be about, who the characters would be, how to use English for the lines, what materials should be used, and we made some props. The most important thing that made us feel successful was the cooperation of all classmates.

When we did the rehearsals, our teacher from Oxford University taught us how to use facial expressions to make the drama more lifelike.

On the last day of the camp, I felt a little bit sad because I thought the camp was unforgettable. So, I took a lot of photos with the native English speaking tutors.

2C Wong Kee Hang



2010 Swimming Gala

It is our school's tradition to hold the Swimming Gala biennially. With this

tradition becoming less common among Hong Kong secondary schools, it added more meaning and value to our school's event this year. The Swimming Gala this year took place on 6th October 2010 at Tsing Yi Swimming Pool. It was also our great honor to have Ms. Li Yuk Chi, Principal of Buddhist Lam Kim Tian Memorial Primary School, to share the joy with us that day.

At this meaningful event, we did not miss the opportunity to interview our Principal, Ms. Lo, and two outstanding athletes, Chanel Tsoi and Kim Chu both from 3C.

Look below to read about their feelings and experiences.



Interview with Principal, Ms. Lo



Starfish Reporter	Ms. Lo, how do you feel about the atmosphere of the event today?
Principal	It is simply a great day. I'm so excited because I see so many students participating in the event. We even have a race for teachers, too! I can't wait to see it! I am very proud of our cheering teams as well, as they all try their best to cheer for their house members, shouting slogans and demonstrating their team spirit.
Starfish Reporter	I am impressed by the performances of the athletes and the cheering teams too. What message would you like to give to the athletes and helpers, please?
Principal	I hope that you all treasure this event and enjoy the process. Winning the competitions and getting the medals are not the most important things. We should learn to respect sportsmanship and tackle failure. I hope everybody enjoys this event and finds it meaningful.
Starfish Reporter	Thank you very much for your valuable time.

Interview with 3C Chanel Tsoi & Kim Chu



Starfish Reporter	What are the differences between participating in this Swimming Gala and competitions outside of school?
Kim	It is a lot more enjoyable to take part in the Swimming Gala! It is much less stressful because we're having fun with schoolmates!
Chanel	Yes, and it is very interesting to compete with teachers as well! I never knew that they are such good swimmers!
Starfish Reporter	We know that you are devoted to swimming. How do you strike a balance between swimming and maintaining good academic results?
Chanel	I have been practising after school almost every day, and it is certainly very difficult and tiring. Therefore, I have to pay extra attention in class and try to finish homework in school.
Kim	Me too! Also, my friends are very helpful. If I have difficulties with my schoolwork, they are always patient and willing to help. I am so grateful for them!
Starfish Reporter	Thank you very much. We hope that you will continue to do well in both aspects.

Star Students in 2010 CE EXAM

6B Karen Kong Yan Nam

Level 5 in CE English*



To learn English, I just follow the instructions from teachers and pay attention in class. I do revision consistently, instead of waiting until just before the exam. I think English learning is a life-long investment, and we have to accumulate experiences. I use English as much as I can. All my friends know that I write in English on Facebook. I don't think I can practise English on my own as I don't know if I make mistakes, so I write to my foreign friends on Facebook. (Just be careful not to add 'friends' who are strangers!) Having got brilliant results in English this year, I would like to thank my parents who support and care a lot about me. In addition, I would also extend my gratefulness to my English teachers, Ms. Joanne Yu and Ms. Cindy Lee. They have contributed a lot of time to mark my extra work. Their advice has helped me improve English in a short period of time.

Advice to Students

Do revision consistently. Use English as much as possible, especially with native English speakers. Do treasure the guidance of our teachers in LKCSS. They have made me a star and can help you too!



6B Alfred Wu Yat Sing

Level 5 in CE English

I felt kind of stressed when I was preparing for the exam since it was the last CE exam in Hong Kong. I believe that "practice makes perfect" in all subjects. Studying is not just how much time you have devoted, but how you study. I recommend keeping a vocabulary book to jot down meaningful phrases and words and do revision regularly. Newspaper reading is also helpful. I especially like social issues and international affairs. I also like listening to American pop music and watching American films, trying to learn their accents and the way they speak in English. It works! Would you like to give it a try too?

Advice to Students

Keep a vocabulary book, read newspapers, listen to songs in English and watch films in English too.



Top Students in English 2009-2010

1E Chan Si Yin

I like studying English because it is interesting and fun. I study English through revision and exercise. I can get excellent results by paying good attention in class. To improve my English, I use many different ways, such as reading English newspapers and novels, as well as speaking English with my friends and parents.

Advice to Students

If you want to learn English in an interesting way, try listening to songs in English and watching movies in English too. I am sure they will be very helpful.



2E Leung Ka Huen

No one knows this, but I am crazy about English. Why? Well, I love movies in English very much. In Primary 2, I watched a film in English, but I found that I could hardly understand it. Then I knew I had to spend more time on English. At first, I learned English just for watching movies, but later, that was not the only reason. I found that English is the most beautiful language in the world. That's why I love English.

Advice to Students

If you want to improve English, you need to develop an interest in it. For example, watch movies or tv shows in English and listen to songs in English too. Then your skills will become better and better. Let's increase our interest in English and learn it whole-heartedly!

3E Lam Kwan Yung

I like studying English because English is very interesting! I think English words are like puzzles. If you put some of the letters together, they form a word. If you take some letters away or put more letters in, the word can become other words! Isn't it interesting? In my daily life, I always listen to songs in English and read books in English too. The most interesting way to learn it is to make some pen-friends from other countries, such as England and America. I can improve my English by writing letters in English and reading theirs!

Advice to Students

Enjoy using English in daily life. Think of it as a game and play with words to learn other words. Listen to songs in English and make some English speaking pen-friends.



English Debate

Should Hong Kong Bid to Host the 2023 Asian Games?

Affirmative Side

4A Ho Yan Chak, Benny



I think Hong Kong should bid to host the 2023 Asian Games because it can bring many benefits to Hong Kong. Firstly, hosting the 2023 Asian Games can attract a lot of

tourists from all around the world to watch the competition; it will improve the tourism industry of Hong Kong. Thus, it can improve the overall economy of Hong Kong. Secondly, hosting the Asian Games can inspire a healthy culture of doing sports in Hong Kong. It can encourage Hong Kong athletes and many other Hong Kong people to exercise more and participate in sports more regularly. Last but not least, it is a good chance for Hong Kong to get some experience in hosting international events. The Hong Kong government thinks hosting the 2023 Asian Games can help them gain experience. In the future, if there are other international events, we will be able to handle them well as we would have experience already.

Opposition Side

4B Lo Kim Kiu, Billy



I am against the motion that Hong Kong should bid to host the 2023 Asian Games. There are several reasons why it is inappropriate to

conduct such an expensive event in Hong Kong. First, Hong Kong is a small area where land is limited. There is not enough space to construct all the necessary buildings and sports facilities. As the Asian Games event is a high standard sports activity, both the hardware construction and software manpower should be higher than international standards. The insufficient land here in Hong Kong may result in crowded competition environments, and thus, it will negatively affect the quality of the games.

English Builder

2C Eugene Cheung Tsz Hang obtained amazing results on inter-school ranking in the on-line English Builder programme. In Level One, he ranked 26th among all students from over 100 secondary schools in 2010. Let's read what he wants to share with us.

English is an important language for us to learn. One of the ways that I improve my English is by regularly doing the on-line English Builder programme. Since I was in Form 1, I have been doing English Builder thrice a week. It is an interesting task. Sometimes, we have a new assignment, and sometimes we have an assessment or revision. My favourite task is games. Although they might be a bit easy for me, it is exciting because there is a time-limit.

In each assignment, we practise reading and listening, and we learn new vocabulary words. The reading passages are always short and easy, and the content is related to our daily lives. The revision helps us remember what we have learnt. It is really good to do revision from time to time. In fact, English Builder is a good website for us to practise and learn more English. I hope that it can be just like computer games, which have different levels for students to get through. If we pass Level One, we can go to Level Two to test our English ability.

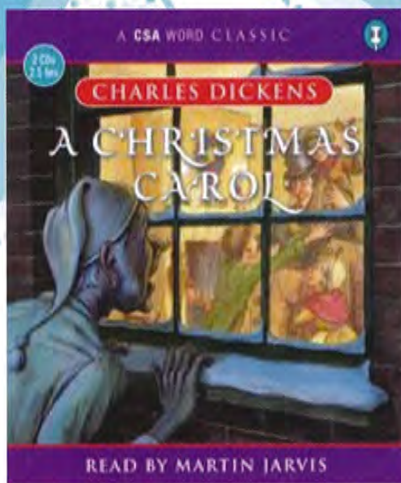


Let's experience the fun of reading!

Do you want to improve your English, expand your vocabulary and have fun at the same time? Why not try reading some interesting story books? Our English teachers have selected some wonderful, easy-to-read novels for you, and they are all available in the school library.



1. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens



This is a famous classic. Ebenezer Scrooge is a miser who has no interest in celebrating Christmas. On Christmas Eve, he is visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. The three ghosts remind Scrooge of the man he once used to be, the cold truth of what he is today, and what will happen if Scrooge does not strive to be a better man for tomorrow. This story was adapted into a movie in 2009, starring Jim Carrey.

2. Daddy-Long-Legs by Jean Webster

Looking at the title, you may think it is a story about family. Actually, it's a love story which is full of surprises, and you won't realize who loves who until you get to the very end.

The story is made up of a series of letters written by Judy Abbott, a 17-year-old American girl who is an orphan. She writes them to her anonymous trustee who sends her to college.

Judy expresses all of her emotions in the letters, telling Daddy-Long-Legs of her hopes, her fears and her love for him and for another man. Who does she fall in love with? Who is the real Daddy-Long-Legs? Read the book and get the answers yourself!



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