

Starfish

Lai King Catholic Secondary School
English Newsletter (2015-2016)

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Highlight of the Year

Debate Team

This year our school participated in the Hong Kong Secondary Schools Debating Competition against other secondary schools in Hong Kong. Four of our S5 students, Lee Cheuk Nam Jonathan, Yip Lai Chi Nikki, Lai Chi Wing Cathy and Lau Tin Kong Tim competed in this joint school competition. So far, we have won the first debate round as the affirmative team for the motion that "Hong Kong isn't doing enough to tackle climate change." Lee Cheuk Nam Jonathan was also awarded 'best student speaker' for the overall debate. For the second debate, we were the negative team on the stance that "Home Schooling offers more benefits than drawbacks" and also won the debate round. Finally, we won the champion in the last round of this inter-school debate competition! Hurray!

We are looking for any interested S4 or S5 students who want to improve their oral speaking skills and learn about debate skills to join our growing team! Contact Ms. Allison if you are interested!



Lee Cheuk Nam, Jonathan



Words from Miss Kwan

Time flies, we have come to this time of the school year and I am more than delighted to see my students' achievements and improvements through the year. For those who have worked very hard, you deserve a pat on the shoulder! For those who are slacking off a little bit, there are a few things that I'd recommend you to do.

First, time management is always the key. I'd recommend that you get a little bit ahead of what your teachers are teaching so that you have already been exposed to the material by the time you learn it in class. Also, you have to review the chapters and go over everything you learned in class that day. By this way, you can make sure you truly understand the things learnt in class.

I believe the only one thing that matters is your effort! Good Luck!

English Teacher, Miss Kwan



Words from our NET:

Another end to a productive and enriching school year, I'm happy to say that I have gotten to know a lot more of you more personally and watch you develop and grow into more effective and efficient learners of English. All of you have worked really hard this academic year and for those of you still struggling to find that passion for English, I want you to spend this summer searching for that motivation. Find that motivation for why English is important to you. Everyone has their own reasons and it's time you found yours! So for this summer, I want all of you to remember to get the rest and relaxation your minds and bodies need to recharge your battery! You deserve it! Look forward to spending another year working hard together!

Our NET, Miss Allison



English Society Activities 2015-2016

English Society

On Tuesday, October 13th, the English Society held its first meeting. Our NET, Ms. Allison, brought in a homemade strange American food snack called 'Chocolate Bacon,' a combination of sweet, salty and savory flavors. All the students who joined seemed to enjoy the strange but appealing flavors. After a short briefing of recent news and our 2015-2016 English Society Activities, our NET did a short presentation on how to make a popular homemade gift to be given to family or friends [called 'Chocolate Spoons.'] After the demonstration, the NET and student volunteers from the English Society helped new members make their own chocolate spoons and decorate them. Everyone enjoyed making their spoons and eating them after, too!



English Society First Meeting



Song Dedication

This year, right before Christmas holiday, the English Society conducted the Song Dedication Day during lunchtime on 15 December 2015. Students as well as teachers dedicated and wrote sweet messages to each other to let someone know that they were being thought of and to offer words of appraisal and gratitude. This year's songs were: Maroon 5-Sugar, Jessie J-Price Tag, Taylor Swift- Last Christmas and Paramore-That's What You Get. Students showed lots of enthusiasm to say thankful words to their teachers and friends and this year some of the messages were even delivered to students in their homerooms during morning assembly.

Academic Week in the First and Second Terms

In the First Term, the Academic Week was held during November 25th-27th. The English Society hosted a fun English proverbs-matching activity on Living a Healthy Life as well as tongue twisters and matching games to play with students. Students had a very fun time, especially with trying out the tongue twisters!

In the Second Term, the Academic Week was held on May 4th-6th. The English Society held an 'LAC Sentence Making Game' in which students had to rearrange words to make complete sentences. The sentence topics were on LAC topics, such as Space and Leading a Healthy Life with Proper Nutrition with words from LAC as well as Morning Assembly Key Words.



Student Teachers from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

It has been a very memorable experience to stay in Lai King Catholic Secondary School for my teaching practice. Thanks to my mentors and all other teachers who have supported me and given numerous teaching ideas and suggestions to improve. I treasure the opportunity they have granted me to try out my teaching ideas. On top of that, I'd also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my 2 classes, 1B and 4C. Their vitality and the serious learning attitude are the greatest encouragement to me and I'll definitely miss them. Wish them all the best in their future and remember, the sky's the limit!

Miss Michelle Chow



Miss Chow, Miss Lam and Miss Wu

So often you find that people you are trying to inspire are the ones that end up inspiring you. During my teaching practice, I was often impressed by the liveliness and creativity of the students. It's been an enjoyable experience teaching at LKCSS, and it's an experience that I'll always remember. I would also like to thank my kind and helpful colleagues, especially those from the English Department for supporting and assisting me throughout my teaching practicum. Without you all, I wouldn't have had such a fruitful teaching experience here. I will miss this place and the people I met.

Miss Eugene Lam

Student Teachers from the University of Hong Kong (PGDE)



It is not the first time for me to hear the name of Lai King Catholic Secondary School as I have met some friends from this school before when I occasionally joined the church gatherings in Kwai Chung district. I

feel really glad to be given the chance to have my teaching practicum in this school and learn from my mentors, who have been caring and supportive all the way through. They are generous in sharing their practical knowledge in education, most importantly the skills of classroom management and even the subtle skills of assignment management that are essential for a smooth process in the everyday duties as a teacher. Apart from that, the students here are full of energy and eager to interact with me. Their enthusiasm has encouraged me to further embark on the journey of education through caring guidance in inspiring students of the next generation. I will never forget my short but definitely fruitful days at LKCSS!

Mr Lam Chi Bun, Barny

8 weeks has passed in the blink of an eye. I can say for sure the teaching experience here has been fruitful and marvellous. Students here regardless of their backgrounds and abilities are willing to try new things and it is always a pleasure for me to have lessons with them. I am thankful to be given a chance to experiment different teaching methodologies and reflect on my own teaching. I would like to express my gratitude to my mentors who have given me practical suggestions and my students who have supported and appreciated my effort all the way. Wishing you all the best!

Miss Wong Tsz Ching, Serene



Student Teacher from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (PGDE)



I am delighted about the opportunity to do my teaching practicum in Lai King Catholic Secondary School which is a loving, caring and warmth-filled environment. I enjoyed teaching F.2, F.3, and F.4 students English during my time here, and I enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you. The students are willing to learn and the teachers here are very friendly and helpful. During my time here, I have learnt a great deal in terms of how to better my teaching, and have realised that the essence of teaching is not about how much a teacher teaches, but whether they can successfully motivate students to learn. Learning English is a continuous journey which requires hard work, determination, and persistence. So keep up the good effort, LKCSS students!

Miss Chan Po Ying, Shirley

Student Achievements

67th Hong Kong Speech Festival

This year we had 32 entries of Solo Verse Speaking. A total of 32 students from S.1-S.6 participated in the 67th Speech Festival. We are proud to announce that we had 1 Champion, 1 Third Place and many certificates of merits for our students this year. Trained by our teachers, our students are able to convey the true message behind the poem itself through proper expression, intonation and pose.



4E Man Tin Yiu and Ms Chow

2 Winners:

Champion

6E Shiu Wing Ki K49

3rd Place:

4E Man Tin Yau K67



6E Shiu Wing Ki with the Judge and Miss Yu



6E Shiu Wing Ki and Miss Yu

27 Certificates of Merits:

1A Yu Kwan Lok K61	1D Tsang Yuen Yan K35	4C Lai Yi Lam K45
1A Choi Yu Ching K61	1D Huang Wing Yi K35	4C Teoh Yee Cheng Michelle K45
1A Lee Cheuk Nam K35	1D Choi Cheuk Hang K61	4D Leung Ka Hei K45
1A Pang Wai Man K35	2A Chan Sum Yuet K39	4D Yung Wai Lam K45
1A Chan Ka Man K36	2B Chung On Ki K38	5B Yip Wing Kiu K47
1A Chuang Kam Yi K36	2D Lau Yin Nam K38	5D Cha Hiu Yu K47
1B Wong Ching Tung K36	3A Kwok Hoi Ying K41	6C Wong Ho Ching K49
1D Yuan Hei Yi K36	3A Tang Tsz Ching K42	6E Yeung Tsz Kin, James K70
1D Lam Cheuk In K36	3A Deng Yun Yi K41	6E Leung Sze Tung K49

Happy Retirement! Our Dearest Mr. Wong Kok Ching



Mr. Wong Kok Ching will be leaving our school very soon and will be entering the next phase of his life – Retirement. Here are some words of wisdom from our respectable teacher, Mr. Wong.

“Students often have misconceptions about learning English – they think English cannot be studied, especially for English tests and exams. But this is not true. If you pay effort and try to expose yourself to the English environment around you, for example, reading English menus in restaurants and reading English notices on buses, your English proficiency will improve gradually. If you want to achieve better results, you must

work hard to expand your vocabulary capacity. For the most difficult part of English – grammar, you must do more exercises to familiarize yourself with the grammar rules.

Remember, Rome is not built in one day. When you learn English, you need to pay extra efforts and work hard every day to brush up on your English!

Don't let yourself feel regret and think about the bad consequences before you act.”

Thank you Mr. Wong! Congratulations and Happy Retirement! Now the fun begins and best wishes on your new chapter in life.

School Events

6E Christmas Party

Drenched in an enjoyable atmosphere full of Christmas decorations, our classroom was fully packed with different kinds of "animals" and even "aliens"! But you don't need to be afraid of us. The 'animals' and 'aliens' were students from 6E and their beloved class teacher – Ms Kwan.

Everything was perfect. The games were fun and the classroom was filled with laughter. Everyone was relishing every moment. Yet, we are soon going to leave our school and lead our own path. To keep this precious memory, we captured each moment through the camera, so the memory will not fade away and will last forever.

I believe that, in the future, we will be able to stay close with each other, with some small changes and differences, but the same bond.

6E Shiu Wing Ki



School Picnic

On November 17th 2015, we had our annual school picnic where students designed their own customized t-shirts to represent their homeroom class. Students were able to enjoy picnicking and barbecuing with their friends. They could also take a break from the busy city life to relax and cool down. Some students brought in homemade dishes to share with their classmates and students were even kind enough to share the food they barbecued with their teachers! Lots of joyous and memorable moments were captured that day and not just by the camera but in our hearts.



Sports Day

Held on December 14th and 15th 2015 at the Tsing Yi Sports Ground, Sports Day was fun for all! A lot of students participated in the activities and the weather could not have been better! Many students participated in the sporting events while the rest of the students offered support and enthusiastic cheers for their Houses. There were a variety of activities for everyone! Students wearing their House colors proudly were cheering on for their housemates who were competing. During the teacher-student event, many teachers ran with their students to show their support and helped promote a healthy lifestyle too! Each House performed a dance show for the cheering team competition. Each House choreographed and taught themselves the dancing steps with suitable music for the lively performances.



Students' Works

4 Important Things about Writing

1. Read the topics carefully!

I know it may sound stupid, but if you only get a mere glimpse of the topic and hastily start writing, you'll probably fail to identify the focus of the topic and thus lose plenty of marks for irrelevancy. To avoid this, make sure you highlight all the keywords in the question and write a brief summary of your ideas first. You should also refer to the topic regularly to check whether your content matches and fulfils the requirements of the topic.

2. Free your time to learn English!

Despite your busy schedule, you ought to squeeze some time out for reading an English book or newspaper every day. You might as well watch some TV programmes and movies (in English of course) at weekends, too. Having continuous exposure to English does help you appreciate others and enrich yourself with different views and knowledge. Only then will you be able to develop and express your ideas well in writing. Remember, balance your time and be fair to English!

3. Build your foundation!

Writing is like building a house, the more effort you put in, the more you get in return! In the story 'The Three Little Pigs', only the third little pig survived in the end since he had used the right tools and materials to build his house. Similarly, we need accurate grammar and well-chosen vocabulary to write well. Just keep reading and practising grammar, you will see how your vocabulary has expanded and grammar accuracy has improved soon. You must act before it's too late!

4. Practice makes perfect!

You should finish one or two pieces of writing every week (your homework writing assignments should not be counted though) so that your English teachers can figure out your problems and the grammatical mistakes you make and then you can seek their guidance and make self-improvement earlier. It's always true that hard work does pay off and there is no shortcut anyway! Good luck and strive for your goals!

Jason Hung Tsun Sing
(our past student)
Year 1, Bachelor of Arts (Hons)
Lingnan University



Lack of Competition in Homeschooling is Detrimental to Students' Well-being and Growth in Hong Kong

Today, I would like to open your eyes to one of the reasons why homeschooling is detrimental to students' well-being.

To start with, homeschooling lacks the necessary competitiveness required to produce bright young individuals. In general cases, there are only 1 to 3 kids in a family. In other words, a child has no sense of competition. For example, if a family decides to homeschool all of their children, they may just need to compete with only one to two other children; or in other cases, if just one child is homeschooled, she has no idea of what a competition is. As a result, a competition-free environment will demotivate people and they cannot see the significance in studying and doing better, as they have no one to compare themselves to.

Whereas in public or private schools, normally students will need to compete with the whole class, providing constructive competition and a driving force to boost the class's morale. According to an article entitled, "Positive & Negative Effects of Competition" by Kristine Tucker, published on Demand Media, the writer mentioned that competition plays an important role in academic achievement because it often spurs students to pursue and strive for excellence. This article reflects that academic pressure can challenge students to work harder in their studies. Thus, the academic results of school students will be better than homeschooled students since homeschooling cannot arouse the awareness of competition.

Overall, even though homeschooling may seem like a diversified and student-centered educational option, it is not all it's cracked up to be. Think before you act.

-5A Lai Chi Wing, Cathy



S1 Student Colour Poems 2015

Red

Red is apples
Red is chili
Red is berries
Red is sweet
Red tastes like tomatoes
Red smells like apples
Red sounds like rap music
Red feels like berries
Red looks beautiful
Red makes me hungry
Red is my favourite colour.



- 1C Joyce Mok

Red

Red is the red packet
Red is China
Red is my school bag
Red tastes like apples
Red smells like sweets
Red sounds like people screeching
Red feels like people's lips
Red looks like a rose
Red makes me happy
Red is my favourite colour.



-1C Chan Mei Fung

Yellow

Yellow looks like bananas
Yellow makes me feel dangerous
Yellow is the thunder
Yellow smells like mangoes
Yellow looks like smiling
Yellow tastes like candies
Yellow looks like a tiger
Yellow sounds like thunder
Yellow is my favourite colour.



-1C Bobo Yu

White

White is the doctor gown
White is clean
White is like an angel
White is a sacred colour
White is a rabbit
White tastes sweet
White smells like fruit
White sounds like quiet cats sleeping
White feels like I'm in a safe and quiet place
White looks like ice
White makes me calm down
White is my favourite colour.



-Krystal Cheng (4) 1C

10 Popular Idioms to Sound like a Native Speaker

Below are some popular idioms you can use to improve your daily English and sound more natural!

1. **Stick to your guns**- keep trying/don't give up/don't compromise
e.g. Stick to your guns, don't let them change your mind.
2. **Step up your game**- work harder to do better
e.g. You really need to step up your game and work harder.
3. **Pull yourself together**- calm down
e.g. I know you're upset but pull yourself together, you will be ok.
4. **Hang in there**- keep trying/don't give up
e.g. I know it's difficult, but hang in there, don't give up so easily.
5. **Sold (me) out**- to snitch on someone/tell their secret
e.g. I thought she was my friend but she sold me out.

6. **Blew (me) away**- something or someone impresses you so much
e.g. Her speech just blew me away, she was so charming!
7. **Cry wolf**- when someone always lies about something and you don't believe them anymore
e.g. She always told lies to her friends, so when she really needed help they didn't believe her. They thought she was crying wolf.
8. **No-brainer**- so easy, anyone can do it
e.g. This quiz is a no-brainer!
9. **Feel under the weather**- feel sick or depressed
e.g. She was feeling under the weather ever since she broke up with her boyfriend.
10. **Comfort food**- food that reminds you of home or your childhood.
e.g. Whenever I am feeling sad, I make myself some comfort food.

Other English Activities

Overseas Summer Study Tour

The Australian overseas study tour was amazing, especially the food! For dinner, I mostly ate things like hotdogs, toasts, chicken wings with my host family and roommate. I've also tried some famous Aussie foods like, Vegemite, Lamingtons and Tim Tams. I love eating all of them except for Vegemite. So if you travel to Australia and don't know what souvenirs to buy for your friends, try Lamingtons and Tim Tams!

Our buddies were also very caring. We had lessons together. They also spent their time with us during morning tea time and lunchtime. We still keep in close touch with them now.

We also joined some sightseeing day trips. On the first Saturday, we went to Movie World. It was so amazing to meet movie characters and I got on lots of exciting rides which are even more exciting than the ones in Hong Kong. We also went to Sea World on our second Saturday. It was definitely very exciting to meet lots of marine animals. We also visited other places, like Surfers Paradise, on Sunday. I mostly enjoyed watching the dolphin show. The trainer stepped on the dolphins and moved up and down in the water with the dolphin! It was simply amazing!

Finally, on the last day, we held a farewell party in school. We received a certificate from teachers and then we started doing our end-of-the-class performances, like singing and dancing, in front of our classmates and teachers. After that, we gave our thank-you cards to our teachers and our host families. We all cried because we would miss our teachers, home-stay families, classmates and everything in Australia. Overall, we enjoyed our trip so much!



Cooking in Australia



Closing ceremony of the summer tour



Movie World



Vegemite

2B Chau Po Ying, Chris

S1-S3 Summer Oxbridge Camp

During the first week of August 2015, our school invited some of the most elite and brightest university students from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge to come to our school and host a 5-day Summer English Camp. During this week, new S1 students, S2 and S3 students at our school were able to boost their English in a fun, creative and stimulating learning environment. This program was accompanied and supported by English teachers from our school as well as teaching assistants from some local universities. Each lesson encompasses differentiated learning techniques to cater for students' individual learning needs and each class builds up to an end-of-the-course performance in the form of a drama or singing performance for the Closing Ceremony. Parents were invited to join in the Closing Ceremony to watch how their children's confidence and motivation for English has grown over the week and watch their performance. Overall, everyone had a fun and memorable time.



Fashion Show



Dance show

Catholic Diocesan Talent Show

On 7th May 2016, our school participated in the annual Catholic Diocesan Talent Show under the Miscellaneous Category. Our school won the 2nd place out of many other participating schools. Our school decided to write and carry out an original performance written and designed by the students with the help of our NET, Ms. Allison. This year, our concept focused on the importance of staying true to yourself and all the dreams you wish to pursue. To never let anyone tell you that your dreams are too big or small, you are the creator of your own future and happiness. Your happiness depends on you and the choices you make. Our students' script was also accompanied with pop songs "Humans" and "Don't Give Up" sung by Yim Wing See Christine (5C), Tsang Man Yi Mina (5E) and Pak Chi Yiu Zenaide (3D). Acoustic guitars to accompany the singing were played by 5B students, Yim Ho Yan YHY and Lam Chu Chien Ivy, who played beautifully. Overall it was a lovely and inspirational performance that our students had a lot of fun producing and carrying out. Special thanks to Talent Show participants:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. 1B (27) Natividad Angelica Rubianes | 2. 3D (23) Pak Chi Yiu Zenaide |
| 3. 5A (24) Ng Ka Wai Kelvin | 4. 5A (21) Law Tsz Kwan Kristy |
| 5. 5B (6) Lam Chu Chien Ivy | 6. 5B (28) Yim Ho Yan YHY |
| 7. 5C (29) Yim Wing See Christine | 8. 5E (15) Tsang Man Yi Mina |

Comments from the adjudicators:

- Nice musical accompaniment
- Creative script with musical parts
- A very meaningful and touching message



Performers of Talent Show