PRIMARY ENGLISH BACKTON SCHOOL SERVICE SCHOOL SERVI

3rd October 2014

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AT A GLANCE

It's only the beginning of the school year, but there's already a BUZZ about what this year's Grade 5 performance will be about.

I can tell you what I know so far...the number 10 is a prominent feature in the performance. As always, there will be dancing, singing and laughter. The Grade 5 students are already auditioning for their parts. And...the script has been written by five teachers! The title? I don't know what it is yet...so stay tuned to PEN to find out more!

Here's what we've done so far:

2008 - The Golden Slip Up

2009 – The Gingerbread Girl

2009 - Strega Nonna

2011 – Mulan

2012 - Al Adden

2013 - The Story of Us

2014 - Badtime Stories

2015 - ?

FOREWORD

Hello parents and students! Welcome back to a new school year! And to our Grade 1 students, welcome to Primary school! It's already been a month, and I hope everyone has settled in well.

For our new students and parents, let me tell you a little about PEN. It is an acronym for Primary English Newsletter and it is a monthly enewsletter which keeps parents and students informed of what's happening in the Primary English Panel.

In this newsletter, you can read about the activities we do during lesson time, the activities we have planned as a department, a Writers' Corner to celebrate student work and we also introduce a teacher in each newsletter.

This first PEN includes what some of our Grade 1's think of school and English lessons so far. The responses are very encouraging and we will continue striving to let students learn English in a fun, interactive and effective way.

Hence we have the students doing activities like drawing portraits of themselves, writing acrostic poems, listening to stories pertaining to the content of the modules, designing and using cipher wheels, making posters and travelling around the world through the wondrous pages of books!

We are looking forward to going on a rewarding and fun-filled educational journey with all the students this year!

Have a good weekend!

Jennifer Lopez Primary English Panel Head

GRADE ONE

September is a very busy month for Grade One! In addition to starting a new academic year, getting used to the new school and its routine, they are also active in making new friends in the school!

They started the module by completing a little self-profile. They were challenged to draw a detailed portrait of themselves. As there are mirrors in the classrooms, a partner's help was needed completing the task. They asked each other questions like "Are my ears big?", "What colour my eyes are?" etc. At the end, they shared their work with their classmates. It's a pleasure to see the little ones interact with each other actively and politely!



GRADE TWO

G2 MODULE 1: FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

Welcome back to school! G2 teachers and students are all excited to start learning about Module 1: Festivals Around the World. In the first two weeks, we reviewed days of the week and months of the year with our students. We read books as well as sang some interesting songs about words that we learnt in Grade 1. We all had a fun time!

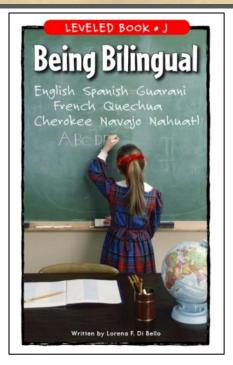
We talked about **Festivals** we celebrate in Hong Kong. We made mind-maps about festivals. As the Mid-Autumn Festival happens in September, we read books about this festival first. We shared moon cakes in class and made lanterns together.

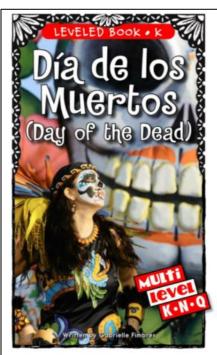


GRADE THREE

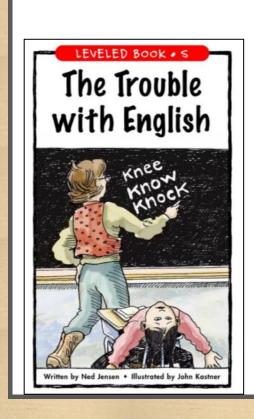
We are very happy to welcome our new students into Grade Three! We have an action-packed year in store for you, with lots of reading, writing, speaking and listening activities related to our three modules: Different Countries, The World of Plants and Houses and Homes.

In September, we spent most of our time getting to know our students. Over the summer, many students experience what's called the "summer slide". This means that the longer children are on vacation, the greater their loss in knowledge and academic ability. The best cure for the summer slide is ... lots of reading! In Module One, we will be looking at lots of books about our Different Countries topic that will help students not only improve their English but also learn about the different nations of the world. Many of these books are also available on our RAZ-Kids online reading programme for students to read together with parents!





Something new we are doing in Grade 3 that both students and parents have noticed is a new way to look at spelling: word study! With word study, we look at why a word is spelled the way it is. For example, "teacher" is spelled t-e-a-c-h-e-r because it comes from the root word "teach". We then try to think of other words with the same spelling pattern, like reach and bleach. We next learn that the -er ending means "person who does the job"; so a **teacher** is a person who **teaches**, an **engineer** is a person who works with **engines** and, uh ... an **eater** is a person who **eats**!



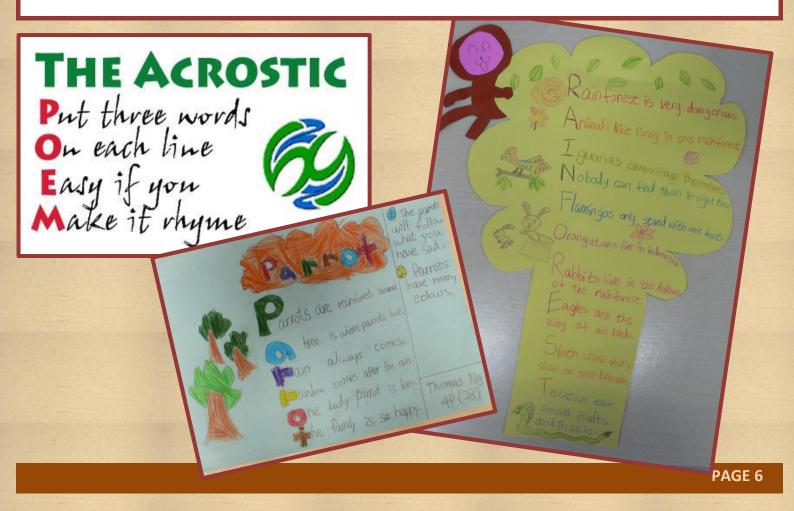
Finally, let's look at your English teachers for Grade 3 ... all of whom have, you guessed it, either passports from, or spent a lot of time in, Different Countries!



Coming back to school after a long summer vacation, our Grade 4 students have started a new learning journey. We began with a module which is closely related to our Earth – The Rainforest.

Through the learning content, students know more about the characteristics of a rainforest, e.g. the amount of rainfall and the different layers; the different species of plants and animals living in the rainforest as well as what human beings can do to protect the rainforest from disappearing.

We have a lot of fun and challenging activities for students, and one of them is writing an acrostic poem. An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word or phrase. Let's have a look at our G4 students' work. They had to create an acrostic poem based on Rainforest words.





GRADE FIVE

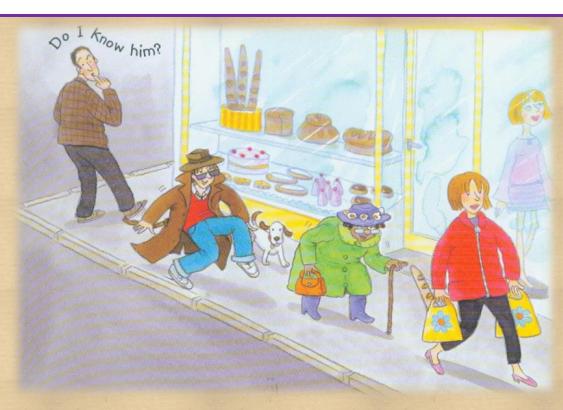
How to be a Spy in 7 days or less!

The Grade five students have been learning about SPIES. If you want to be a spy, answer the following questions to see if you have what it takes to become a spy:

- o Do you like finding out secrets?
- Can you keep a secret?
- Are you good at blending into a Crowd?
- Can you keep calm in a sticky situation?
- Do you know how to use hi-tech gadgets?

If you answered yes to these questions,

congratulations! You're in!



Spies invent secret codes all the time. You can use a special gadget to create a code that is almost impossible to crack. All you need is a cipher wheel! The Grade 5 students made their own cipher wheels and tried to decode some secret messages.





To decode a message, swap the letter on the inner wheel for the one on the outer wheel. To make your code even harder to crack, try using your wheel to create a message then write that coded message backwards! It's simple, but fiendishly cunning!

Grade 6

The Grade Six students kicked off the new academic year with an interesting topic "Different People, Same World". What does this topic mean to you? Our Grade sixes came up with words like "discrimination", "fairness", "human rights", "respect" and "peace" when they read the module title. Bingo! They got it! © In the past two weeks, students learnt about different types of discrimination and their effects on people and society. As the module goes along, they will be learning about anti-discrimination activists, like Martin Luther King Junior, Cathy Freeman and Gandhi.

Students worked in groups to design a poster about anti-discrimination. Let's take a look at their work.



As a consolidation of the first topic "discrimination", students studied news articles that showed real-life reports of discrimination towards different groups of people. They worked in groups of 4s and created a TV news report. After each presentation, we discussed how the behavior was wrong and how it could be tackled.



Students were very engaged throughout the activity. They have learnt that each person on this Earth is equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. Therefore, it is



wrong to treat people unfairly because of their race, age, religion, sexuality, gender, marital status, pregnancy/ maternity or disability. Let's say **NO** to discrimination!!



English Performing Arts

Hello everyone!

Welcome back and we wish you a very joyful new academic year ahead!

Before the summer vacation, we had a very special day. On that day, each of us dressed very differently. Do you still remember what that was about? Yay~ Bingo! That was our **English Day- Book Characters' Challenge**. We all dressed as different book characters and we also had a catwalk competition. There were so many book characters come alive and they were walking around the school. Let's have a look at the highlights.



Book characters on the Catwalk!! ©



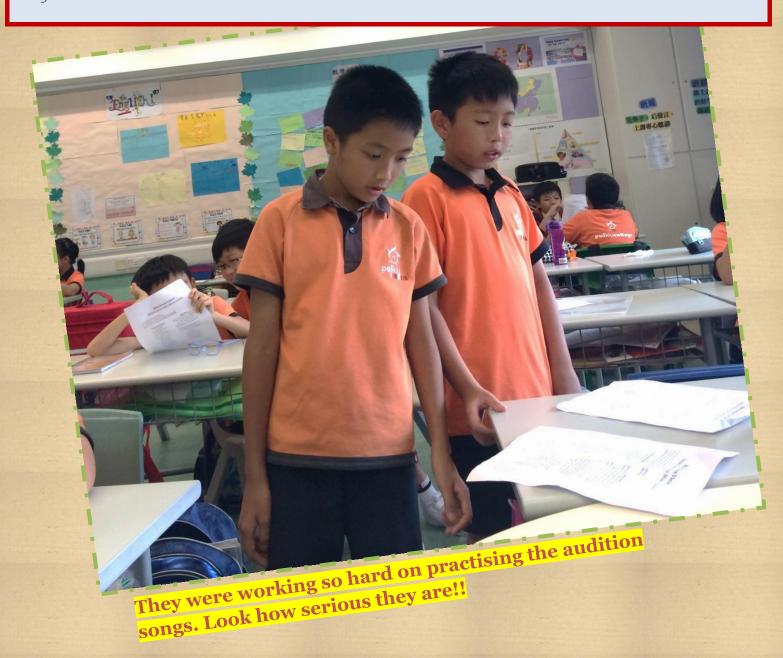
Teacher Shanker, congratulations on winning 'My Favourite Dressed Teacher'.



In the past few lessons, we have already started Module 1. For Grades one and two, the EPA curricula are integrated with English. Then what about Grades three and four? There are four components in EPA- Music, Movement, Drama and Voice. All four components will be covered in one year so students' specific performing skills can then be strengthened.

In the coming PENs, we will talk more in depth about what each grade is doing at EPA lessons.

In our Grade five lessons, we started auditioning for this year's Grade Five Annual Performance.



GRADE ONE IMPRESSIONS ON ENGLISH LESSONS



An interview with kids from 1C

Teacher Karen: Hey, boys and girls! Congratulations! You are now primary students! After studying in this new school, what do you think about English lessons? Are you guys having fun in the lessons?



1M's Impressions

What do you think about the English lessons?

I feel very happy in the English lessons.

I like to play the Full Stops Game.

by 1M (2) Lucas Chan

I like the English lessons. It is fun.

I learned the names of different family members.

by 1M (14) Ally Yip

I am Anna. I like the English lessons.

I learned sight words and phonics.

by 1M (5) Anna Chan

1P's Impressions

Do you like Pui Kiu College? Why?



Yes, because I think
Pui Kiu College is very
big and beautiful and
I can see the
mountains.

Tony Chung from 1P



1W'S IMPRESSIONS



I like to speak English!

Torres Lam 1W



In English lesson, we can learn lots of new things!

Ethan Law 1W



I think English is easy because we can read new words using phonics.

Winsome Ng 1W

AROUND CAMPUS



