

Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

At a Glance

St. Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a holiday that happens on February 14. It is the day of the year when lovers show their love to each other. This can be done by giving flowers, chocolates, Valentine's cards or just a nice gift. Love notes can be given to one another. These notes are called *valentines*. Some people pick one person and call them their "Valentine" as a gesture to show love and appreciation.

Valentine's Day is named for two Christian saints named Valentine.

In the third century after Christ, Valentine was the bishop of Terni (Italy). He performed weddings for couples who were not allowed to get married. They may not have been allowed to get married because the parents did not agree with the connection or because the bridegroom was a soldier or a slave, so the marriage was forbidden.

Valentine gave to the married pairs flowers from his garden. That's why flowers play a very important role on Valentine's Day.

This did not please the emperor. On February 14, 269 AD, Valentin was beheaded because of his Christian faith.

Happy Lunar New Year everybody! I'm very happy to be able to wish everyone on the last day of the Lunar New Year period. I trust we all had a lovely and restful break spent with loved ones. Our students have arrived back at school in freezing weather brimming with wonderful stories of their New Year holiday.

Without further ado, let me quickly give you a rundown of the features we have in this issue. As always, we have our write-ups about what is happening in all the English classrooms. These include excursions to the Avenue of Stars and to the Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Science Innovation Centre.

Most grade levels are finishing off Module 2 and are making preparations to begin Module 3 – our final module for this academic year.

Our featured teacher for this PEN issue is none other than Teacher Kaka! Both Jacky and Jake from 6M have done a stellar job interviewing Teacher Kaka, and typing out the transcript of their interview.

For the Writers' Corner this month, we have the Grade 3 students displaying their skill in various types of writing.

Photos Around Campus show some delightful photos that were taken during the Lunar New Year celebration at our school on 29th January.

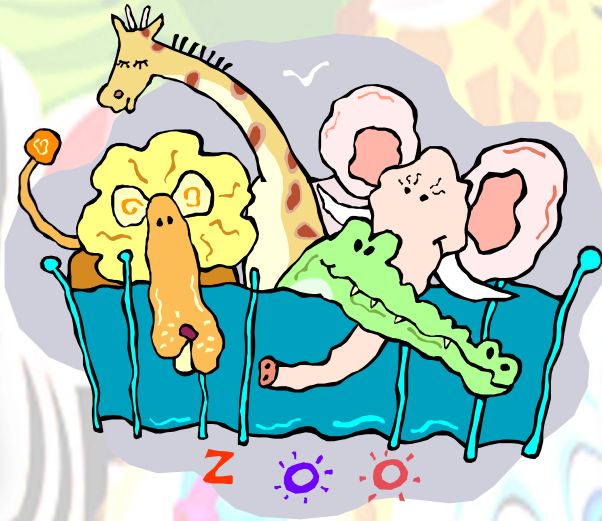
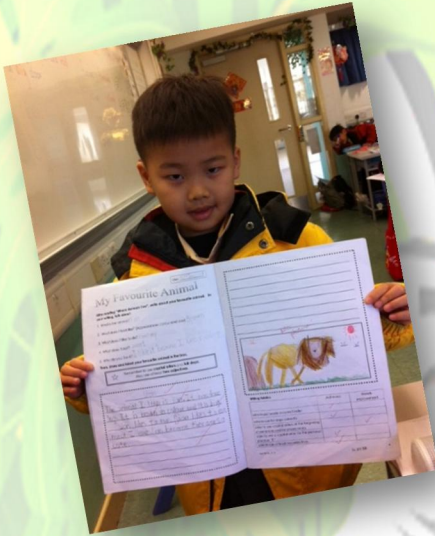
Happy reading!

Ms. Jennifer Lopez

Primary English Panel Head

Grade One

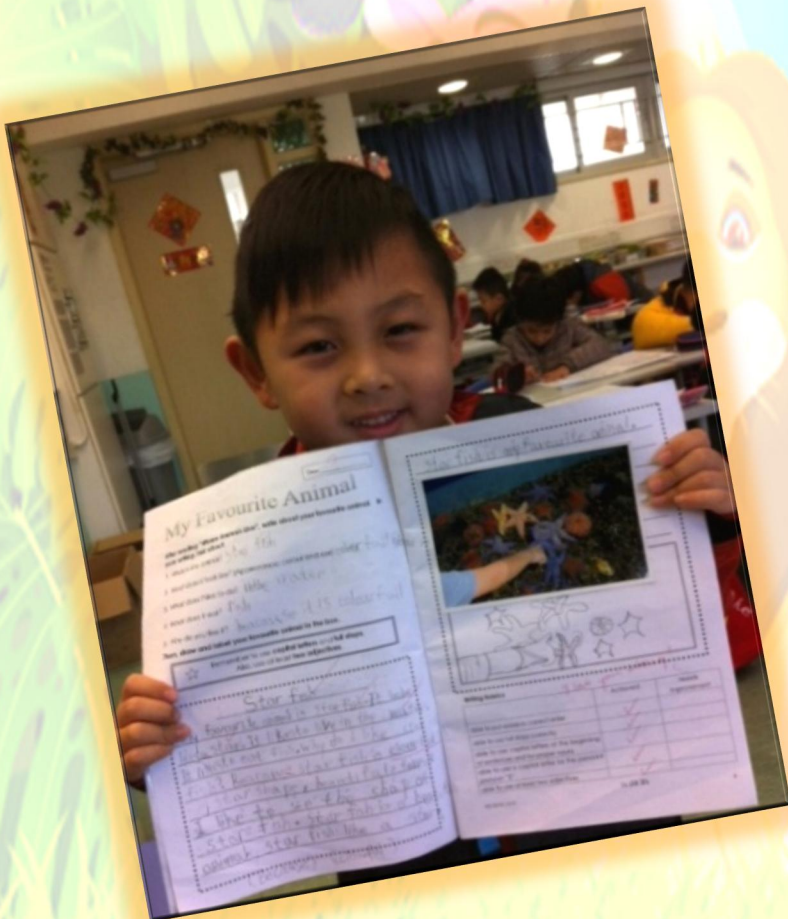
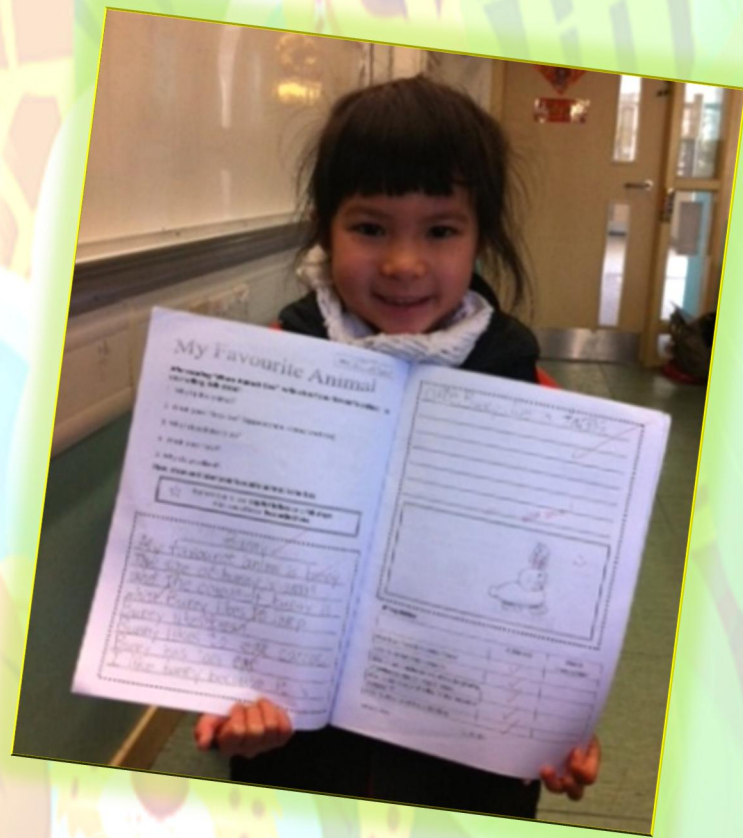
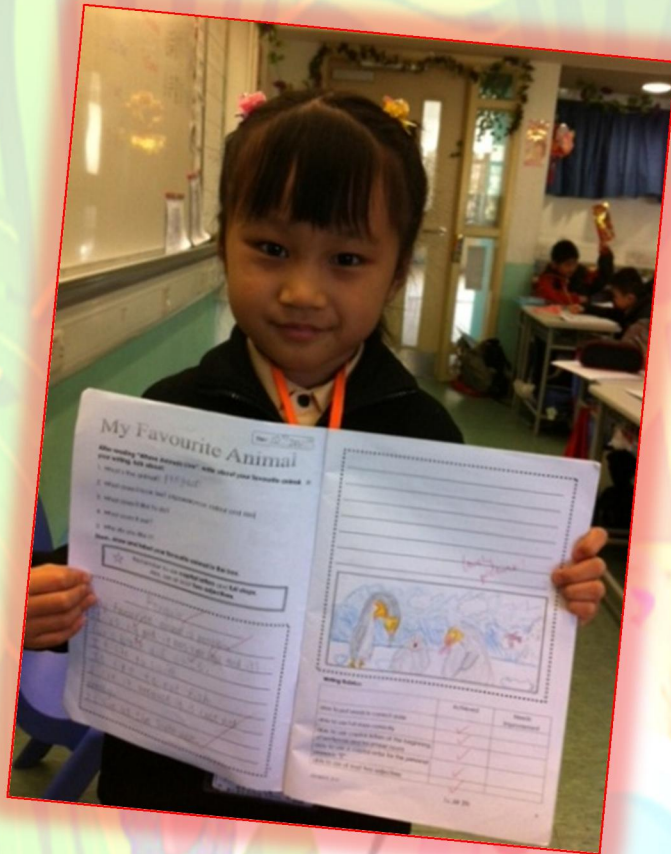
Animals



We have started our new module on Animals. Our Grade 1 students got to explore different kinds of animals. We walked through the animal kingdom together and our students learned about Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles and Fish.

They learned about animal's appearances as well as the way they move. They are now able to use proper adjectives to describe different animals. They have started to write on their own using guided questions. They are reminded to always use capital letters and full stops properly in all their writing. Our students enjoy talking about their favourite animal.

Let's have a look at their favourite animals:



Grade 2

Hong Kong, My Home

The Grade 2 students have been learning about our own home, **Hong Kong**! Can you imagine that nearly seven million people are crammed into the mere 1,100 square kilometers that make up the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)? Hong Kong is not just a city of skyscrapers; there is also lush countryside and small rural areas.

In February, our students went to the Avenue of Stars to interview the tourists to find out their likes and dislikes about Hong Kong. It was a fun experience!



Fun fact about Housing: To many Hong Kong people, their dream is to own a home.

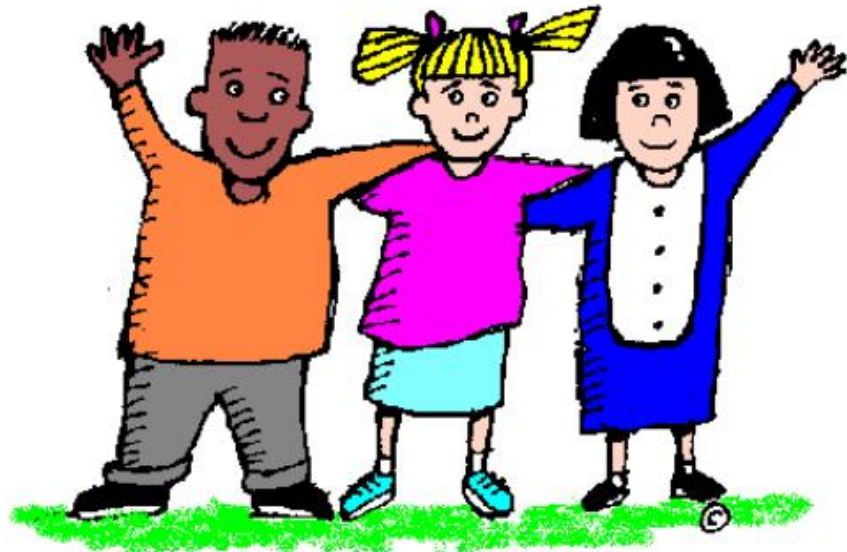
Fun fact about Public Transport: 7 in 10 people take buses and 35% take taxis every week.

Random Fact about Shopping: Jusco and Sogo are among the top 3 department stores visited.

Fun fact about Travel: the number of people taking an air trip outside Hong Kong has leapfrogged 7 times in 30 years from 4% in 1975 to 30% in 2009.

Interesting fact about Eating Habits: Cha Charn Teng or Tai Pai Dong (Hong Kong styled cafe) are unique in Hong Kong. They are visited by half of the people in Hong Kong on a weekly basis.

**I ♥
Hong
Kong**





Grade 3

Flat Stanley

What do you think life would be like if you were flattened by a bulletin board that fell off the wall? According to the book series "Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures", even though being "flat" could be inconvenient sometimes, it did bring a great advantage--- one could travel around the world by slipping into an envelope and taking a flight as airmail!

Our Grade 3 students read about Stanley's story in English lessons, in which they completed some related comprehension exercises after class discussions. As an extended activity, they made their own Flat Stanley puppet and brought it to go on different adventures in Hong Kong or even around the world! Then, the children shared their experiences in front of the class.

The little ones were very creative and imaginative. Each Flat Stanley puppet that they made was unique and special. All puppets wore colourful outfits. Some even could "move" with movable joints! The students did different things with Stanley. Some spent a wonderful vacation with Stanley, tasting the delicious exotic traditional food of the place. Some brought Stanley to interesting museums or landmarks of Hong Kong.

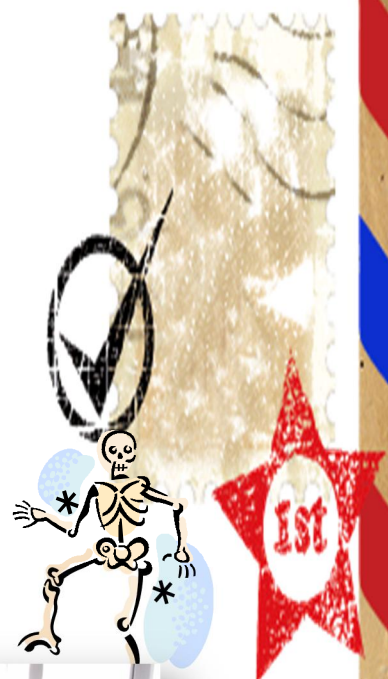
The students enjoyed this activity so much. No wonder all of them shared their adventures with the class with great confidence! Good job boys and girls!

FIRST CLASS

URGENT



Flat Stanley with
movable joints.



I visited the Science
Museum with Stanley.
These are the dinosaur
fossils that we saw.



Stanley accompanied me
when I was practising
tennis. I was the champion
in the competition! 😊



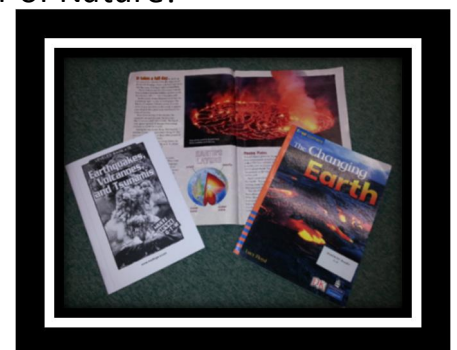
Grade 4

Natural Disasters



- G4 student 1: Ok, let's play a riddle game!
- G4 student 2: Yes! Is it about Natural Disasters?
- G4 Student 1: Yep! What plate do you NOT eat off and what plate can be found in the Earth?
- G4 Student 2: Tectonic plates! My turn! What causes the ground to crack and shake; and is measured on a Richter scale?
- G4 Student 1: That's really easy! Earthquakes! Come on, give me something more difficult!
- G4 Student 2: Erm...ok...what is part of an apple but also part of our Earth?
- G4 Student 1: Hey! That could be lots of things! Give me a clue.
- G4 Student 2: It's really, really hot...really, really HOT!
- G4 Student 1: Then it must be the CORE!
- G4 Student 2: Core-rect! HAHAAH!

In Module 2, Grade 4 students not only learnt about Natural Disasters, but also how they are caused and what kind of damage they wreak. We also made in a Venn Diagram, filling in the similarities and differences of Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis. Our learning centred around three main readers: **Lessons in Lava** from *National Geographic*, **Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tsunamis** from *Reading A-Z* and **The Changing Earth** by Lucy Floyd. Through this module, students have gained a healthy respect for the power of Nature!



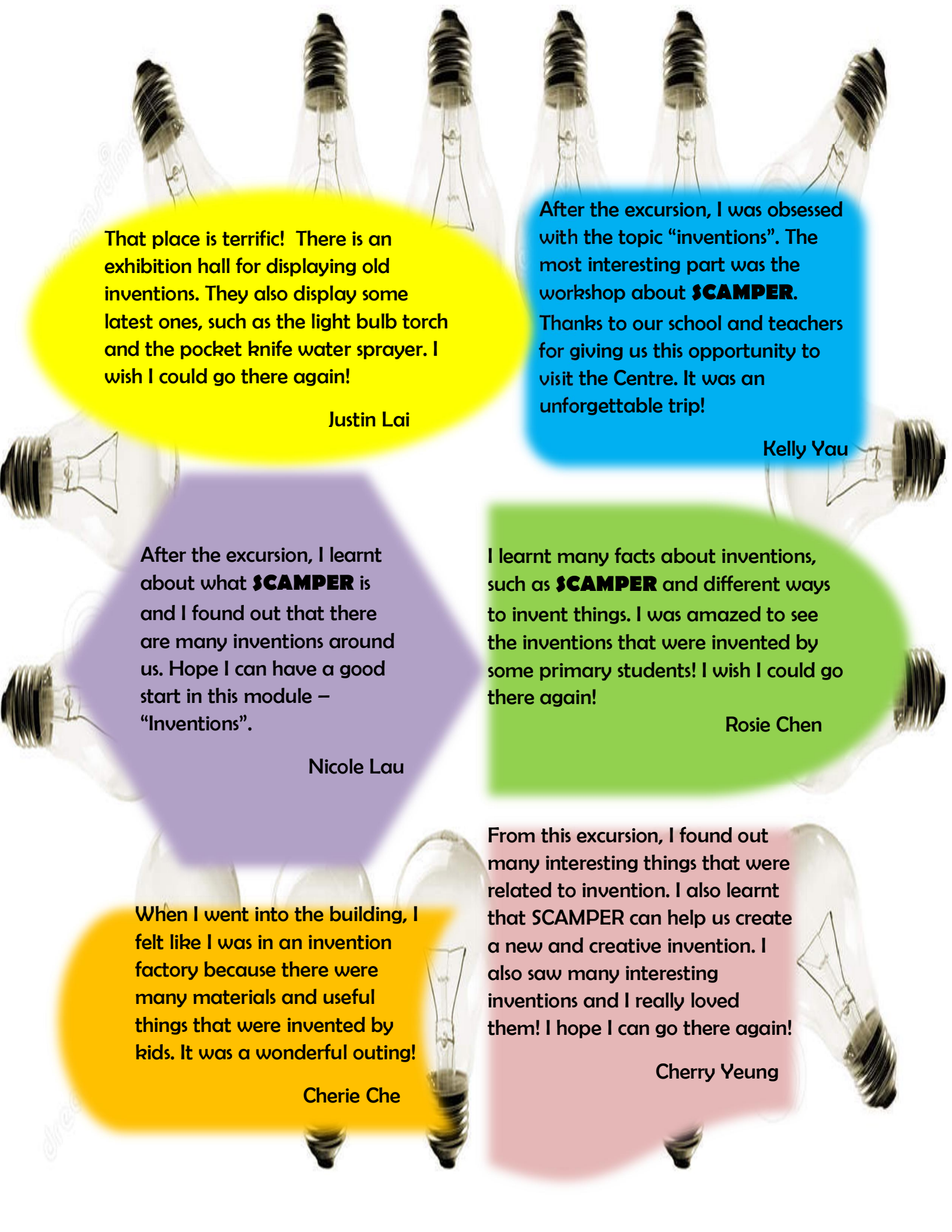
The background of the entire page is decorated with several incandescent light bulbs. Some are at the top, some are on the sides, and some are at the bottom, all arranged in a way that frames the central text. The bulbs are white with visible filaments and metal bases.

Grade 5

Our 5th Graders are currently working on Module 2 ~ “Inventions”. In order to widen their perspective of the topic, they visited Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Science Innovation Centre last month. They had a workshop on “SCAMPER”. “SCAMPER” stands for

substitute, combine, adapt, magnify/ minify, put to other uses, eliminate and rearrange/ reverse. It is a brainstorming technique and it helps us explore the possibilities of a simple idea.

Our Grade 5 students will be applying this technique when they plan their own inventions at the end of the module. Besides attending the workshop, students also had a chance to play around with the inventions in the exhibition room. Let's see how they felt about this visit!



That place is terrific! There is an exhibition hall for displaying old inventions. They also display some latest ones, such as the light bulb torch and the pocket knife water sprayer. I wish I could go there again!

Justin Lai

After the excursion, I was obsessed with the topic “inventions”. The most interesting part was the workshop about **SCAMPER**. Thanks to our school and teachers for giving us this opportunity to visit the Centre. It was an unforgettable trip!

Kelly Yau

After the excursion, I learnt about what **SCAMPER** is and I found out that there are many inventions around us. Hope I can have a good start in this module – “Inventions”.

Nicole Lau

I learnt many facts about inventions, such as **SCAMPER** and different ways to invent things. I was amazed to see the inventions that were invented by some primary students! I wish I could go there again!

Rosie Chen

When I went into the building, I felt like I was in an invention factory because there were many materials and useful things that were invented by kids. It was a wonderful outing!

Cherie Che

From this excursion, I found out many interesting things that were related to invention. I also learnt that SCAMPER can help us create a new and creative invention. I also saw many interesting inventions and I really loved them! I hope I can go there again!

Cherry Yeung



Grade 6

Our Grade 6 students are keeping themselves very busy in module 2 – The Wonders of Science. We learned the 5 steps of carrying out scientific investigations before conducting our own banana experiment.

Step 1: ask questions

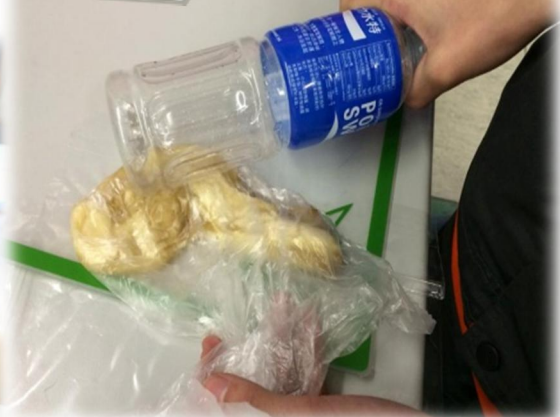
Step 2: make a hypothesis

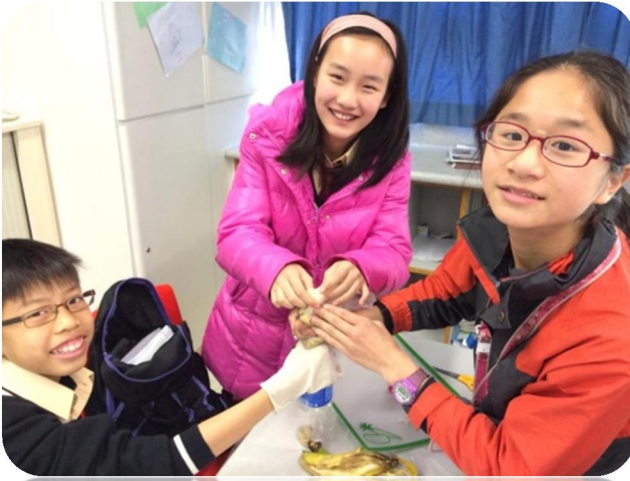
Step 3: do research and test with an experiment

Step 4: observe and analyse

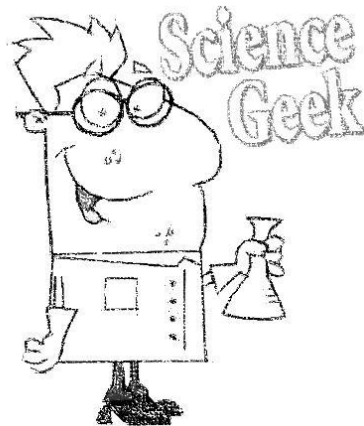
Step 5: draw conclusions

We wanted to test whether bacteria would grow on rotten food (e.g. rotten bananas) and release gas or not. So we smashed the bananas (most of the students used their hands for that) and gently placed them into a water bottle. Because we wanted to see what factors would change the result, some groups used one banana while other groups used two. Some groups added water, some added salt, some put their water bottles in the sun, some shook their bottles, etc. Take a look at us when we were doing the experiment. We had a lot of FUN!!!





On 17 January, we went to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to view a performance of *"Horrible Histories: Awful Egyptians"*. This was a preview of the upcoming "Ancient Egypt" module of our English curriculum. To understand the show better, we read a book called *Awful Egyptians* beforehand and learned some vocabulary we might encounter in the show. Everyone had a wonderful time and it was so entertaining!



ENGLISH PERFORMING ARTS

After learning acting skills and storytelling techniques in Grades 2 and 3, students in Grade 4 move on to more in-depth and complex EPA skills.



Leading up to their grand performance in Grade 5, Grade 4 EPA focuses on building skills in characterization and bringing characters from the written page to living, breathing, and believable persons onstage. This is brought about by the four modules of Drama, Movement, Voice and Music.



Grade 4 Drama focuses on creating a character's biography, including their personal and emotional profile, and finally interpreting these characters within a specific dramatic context for the viewing of an audience.



In Grade 4 Movement, students learn to move to up-tempo music for developing their physical co-ordination, as well as learn how to use props in dancing.



The Grade 4 Music module enables the students to devise and stage their own musical performance of a range of songs from classic standards ("Close to You", "Let It Be") to more recent songs from musicals and pop ("A Whole New World", "Roar").



Grade 4 Voice centres on poems and chants, with which students enhance their skills in vocal variety, expressive and appropriate gestures, movements and staging. After their own very successful performances during the First Term English Week, the Grade 4 students are well on their way towards an amazing performance experience in 2015!

Five handprints in various colors (purple, brown, green, blue, and purple) are arranged in a row. Each handprint has a simple face drawn on it, with a curved line for a smile and two dots for eyes. The hands are of different sizes and are positioned as if they are holding each other.

PEN Teacher Feature

Teacher KaKa

By Jake Yeung & Jacky Yuen (both from 6M)

Q: Do you like teaching?

A: Yes, I do, and especially children. I prefer teaching primary students to secondary students. They are very cute and they are very good to teach.

Q: Can you share some unforgettable teaching experiences with us?

A: Yes. Before, I taught dancing. There were two kids. They went to a dancing competition. During the competition, they performed even better than usual, better than at class. They must have put a lot of effort into the competition. I appreciated them a lot.



Q: As a Maths teacher, can you tell us how important Mathematics is?

A: Mathematics is very useful. It can be used in life, just like English or Chinese. Maths is everywhere.



Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: Yes! I like dancing and playing ping-pong.

Q: Have you ever participated in any Maths competitions?

A: Yes. I have participated in a Maths Story competition. It is about telling stories. We tell stories about Maths. For example, the story about Archimedes and the fake crown. Archimedes proved that the king's crown was a fake by putting it into water and measuring the volume.

Q: Thank you. See you next time!

A: Bye!



Students' Writing Corner – Grade 3

How to Make Dried Flowers

Materials

- iron
- glue
- scissors
- wax paper x 2
- paper towel x 2
- dried flowers
- table
- card



Direction

1. Place a paper towel on a table.
2. Put a piece of wax paper on top of the paper towel.
3. Pull the petals off the dried flowers.
4. Arrange the petals in a beautiful pattern on the piece of wax paper.
5. Put another piece of wax paper on top of the dried flower pattern.
6. Place another paper towel on top of the wax paper.
7. Iron the paper towel.
8. Turn the paper towel over to the other side.
9. Iron the paper towel again.
10. Take away the paper towels.
11. Check to see there is a good seal along the edges of the wax paper.
12. Cut out the dried flower pattern.
13. Glue the dried flower pattern on a card to make a bookmark.

By Ethan Lam (3B)

How to press flowers

You will need:

- paper towel x2
- wax paper x2
- scissors
- Iron
- flower



Steps:

1. Put the first paper towel on the table.
2. Put the first sheet of wax paper on top of the paper towel.
3. Pick the flower that you want.
4. Arrange the flower and the leaves to make a picture.
5. Place the second sheet of wax paper on top of the flowers.
6. Put the second sheet of paper towel on top of the wax paper.
7. Iron the edge of the picture first.
8. Iron the middle for a while.
9. Turn over the picture.
10. Iron the picture again.
11. Check the picture, if not go over the spot to make a better seal.
12. Put it in a cold dry place.
13. Cut off the edge.
14. You can put it in a photo frame to decorate your house.

By Gianna Lee (3C)

Sydney



Introduction

Sydney is the state capital of New South Wales of Australia. It is the largest and the most famous city in Australia.

Sydney is on the south-east coast of Australia. It is between Pacific Ocean and the Blue Mountains. It is very big. It has 12,144 square kilometres. The population in Sydney is 4.7 million.

Sydney is warm in summers and cold in winters. Rainfall spreads throughout the year. It is not too cold or too hot, so the most popular activities are mainly outdoor sports, like golf, tennis, swimming, sailing and mountain biking.

There are many famous places in Sydney. They are Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour, Bondi Beach and Royal Botanical Gardens.

People in Sydney celebrate many festivals. One of the popular festivals is Sydney Festival. It is the largest arts festival in Australia. There are indoor and outdoor performances in January to celebrate this special festival.

Conclusion

Sydney is an interesting place. People would like to visit Sydney during their holidays.



By Charlotte Tsang (3P)

Thailand

Introduction

Do you know how big Thailand is? It is the 51st largest country in the world. It is also the 20th most populated country. Thailand's former name is Siam.

Language

"Sa-wad-dii-krab" This is how people say "Hello" in Thailand. In Thai, males and females speak differently. Males say "krab" while females say "ka" at the end of the speech.

Cuisine

Thailand's food is mostly influenced by Chinese and Indian culture. Spicy Thai dishes are popular in Thailand. Thai dishes include hot chilies, coconut milk, lemongrass and so on.

Landmarks

There are many landmarks in Thailand. The two that are most famous are The Grand Palace and The Temple of the Emerald Buddha. The Grand Palace is the residence of Thai kings for more than a hundred years. The Temple of the Emerald Buddha is considered as the most sacred temple of Buddha in Thailand.

Conclusion

Thailand has its own language, cuisine, landmarks and so on. It is an energetic and unique country. Therefore, people like to go to Thailand!



By Steven Ng (3M)

Photos Around Campus



