



Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

February, ISSUE 5/2013

Welcome to the fifth issue of PEN! The first month of this calendar year went by very quickly! And now we look forward to another New Year – the Chinese New Year!

In this issue, we look at how English lessons incorporate the Language Arts. Teachers do this by adding drama elements, poetry and the study of literature into the English lessons. The Language Arts are an important part of language learning as they instill a love and appreciation of imaginative literature in the students; and challenge students to exercise their imagination and give their creativity free rein. So, keep a lookout for the Language Arts elements in the lessons: in Grade 1, the students are writing riddles; in Grade 4, they are doing drama and reading a popular book by Judy Blume. All Grade levels have class readers around which the activities of the module revolve.

There is also Science to be found in our classrooms. The Grades 3, 5 and 6 in particular are involved in learning about Science. The Grade 3's are learning about plants; the Grade 5's are busy inventing and the Grade 6's are learning that Science has many branches – physics, marine biology, zoology etc. Take a look at what they are doing in this issue of PEN.

The Grade 3 teachers are currently involved in a series of four workshops which have the aim of teaching students to read with greater understanding. The workshops focus on teaching students how to identify different passage structures (narrative, informative and informative-narrative); understand the purpose for each passage structure and the author's aim. Knowing these fosters greater understanding of the passage. Teachers will then go on to learn about teaching students the attributes and purpose of imaginative literature before introducing the five Mental Actions which aid reading comprehension. These Mental Actions will be looked at in more detail in the next issue of PEN.

We also have a special surprise for you in this issue. Read on and find out what it is...

Thanks for reading and have a wonderful weekend!

Ms. Jennifer Lopez
Primary English Panel Head

GRADE ONE

The Grade 1 students have started the new module – Animals! The students are very excited about this module. We have been learning about the habitats of animals (such as tundra, plain, mountain, rainforest and desert) and the animal kingdom too. There are five groups in the animal kingdom. The five groups are: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds.

Here are some riddles written by the Grade One students about their favourite animal.

Let see how many can you guess correctly!

1. I am a mammal.
I have a fluffy tail.
I am good at bouncing.
I live on a plain.
What am I?
by Chloe Fong

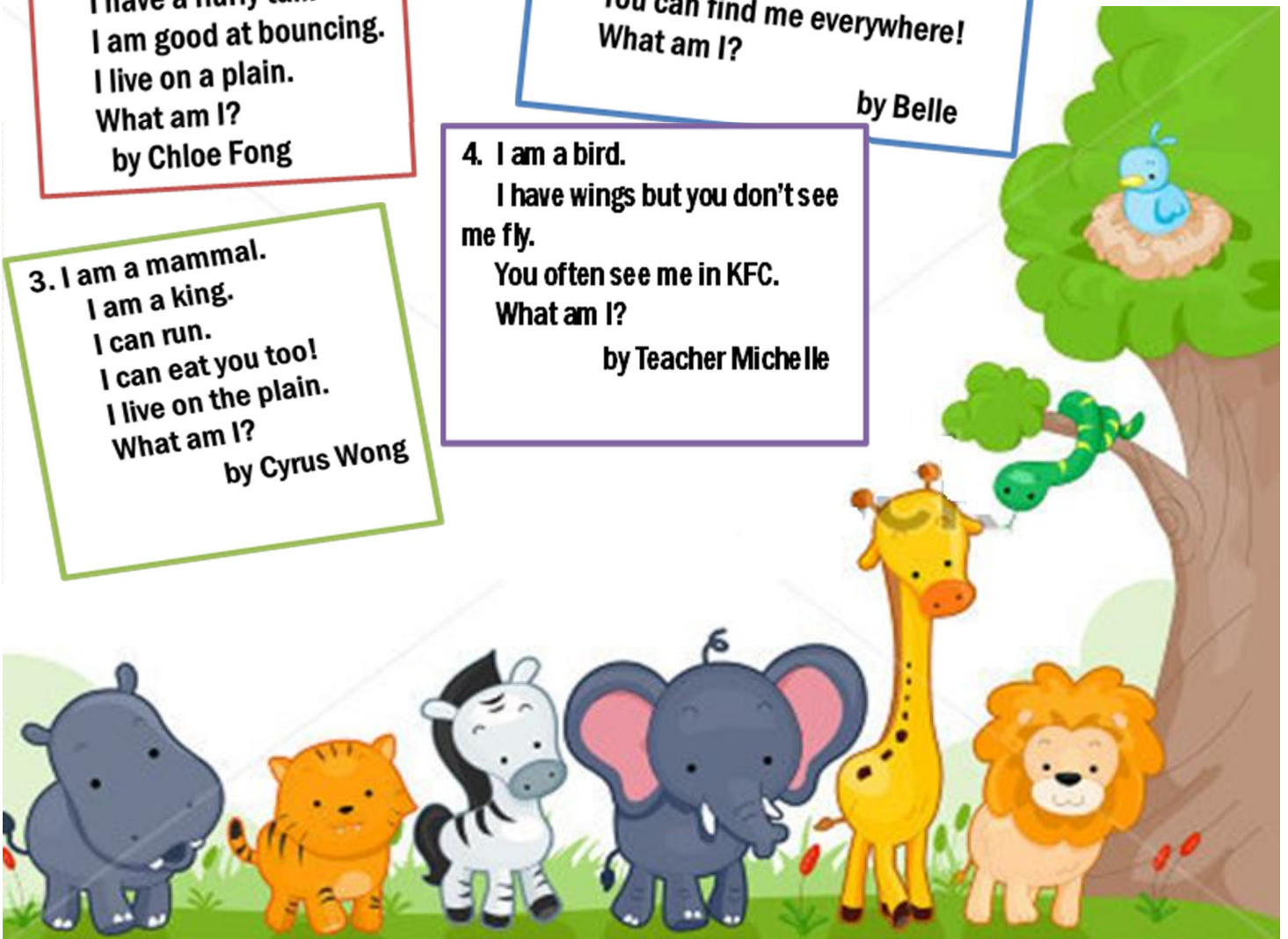
3. I am a mammal.
I am a king.
I can run.
I can eat you too!
I live on the plain.
What am I?
by Cyrus Wong

2. I am a mammal.
I have big ears but I am very small!
I like to eat cheese.
You can find me everywhere!
What am I?

by Belle

4. I am a bird.
I have wings but you don't see me fly.
You often see me in KFC.
What am I?

by Teacher Michelle



GRADE TWO

Hong Kong, My Home

The Grade 2 children have been learning about Hong Kong in this module. We talked about the differences between Hong Kong in the past and present, as well as the differences between the urban and rural areas in Hong Kong. The children collected pictures about Hong Kong and shared with the class what they found. Let's see what some of them like about Hong Kong!



"I love the brown sugar pudding because it is very sweet and yummy!"
– Marcus



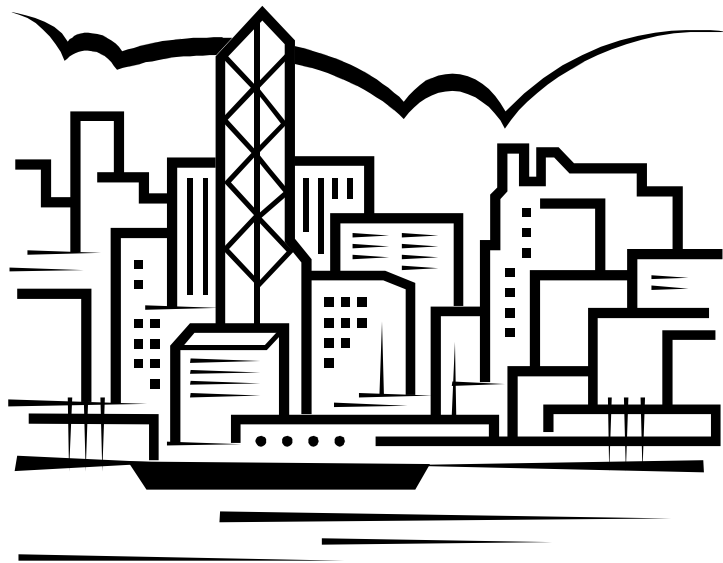
"I went to the wishing tree in the summer. I wrote my wish on a piece of red paper, then I threw it onto the tree." – Michelle



“I love to go to Hong Kong Disneyland because there are lots of games and it’s really fun!”
– Heather



“I love to ride the peak tram to the Victoria Peak. I can see the beautiful view of Hong Kong.” –

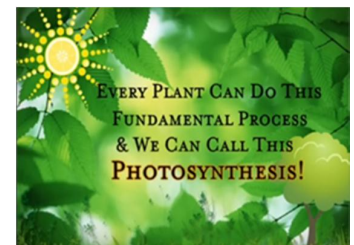


GRADE THREE

The Grade 3 students started module 2 and it is called The World of Plants! We have learnt a lot of new things so far. We learned how to describe the shapes, edges, textures and color of the leaves. We had a leaf hunt before the Christmas holiday and collected different kinds of leaves. We also learned about the photosynthesis process and kept singing the photosynthesis song in class and at home! It was FUN!

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSHmwIz9FNw&feature=related>)

Exciting! Exciting! Exciting! We did two experiments in English class! In the first one, we tried to see whether plants breathe with their leaves. We first collected some large green leaves from the playground. Then, we put them in a tray and poured water into it. After that, we placed the tray in the sun and left it there for a while. In the end, we saw some bubbles on the leaves and that meant the leaves were giving out gas.



In the second experiment, we planted some yellow and green beans. We placed some cotton balls in a container and put the beans on top. We then watered the beans and we are waiting for changes. We will be observing them closely next week and the week after! Take a look at the photos!



GRADE FOUR

The Grade 4 students have started Module 2. As a continuation of Module 1 - "The Rainforest", students are going to learn more about what is happening to our Earth now. The global issues, "climate change", "greenhouse warming" are learnt before we move onto "Natural Disasters, Pollution & Recycling".



effect" and "global the three main topics,

Besides the usual learning materials, LAB, Booklet and Writing Journal, five readers are introduced. Our fourth graders will be learning a variety of texts in this module.

Spelling & Grammar

For writing, we consolidating they will be



focus on two text types. Students will be their skills of writing "information reports". In addition, reviewing "recounts".

Our fourth graders have started their first literature book, "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing". It about a boy named Peter, his pet, Dribble (a turtle) and his younger brother. Students have great fun reading it in class classmates and teacher. Let's take a look of how they dramatized the most hilarious scene in Chapter 2



reading is a story pesky with their

Ohhh! I can't stand reptiles. Get that thing away from me!

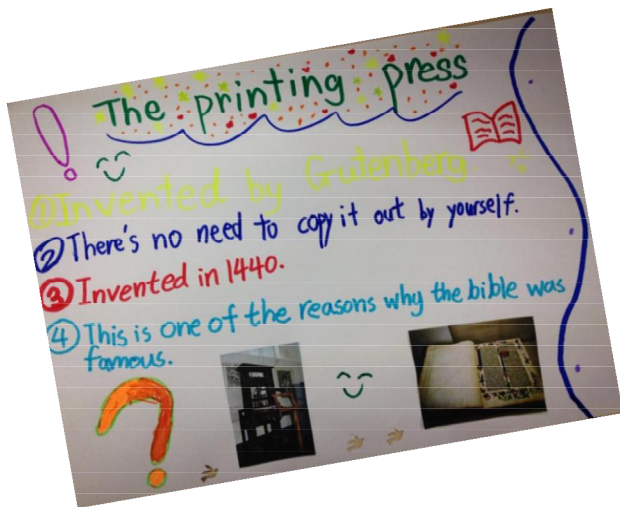
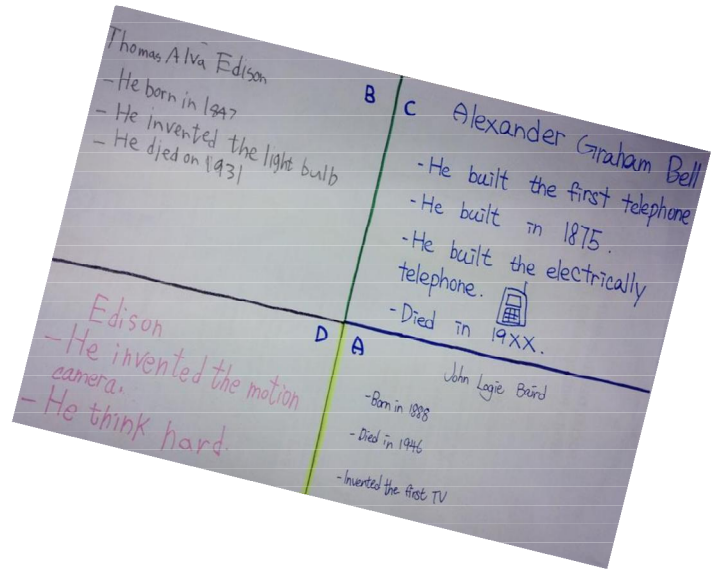
See! See Dribble!

HATCHER!! Make him get that thing out of here!!



GRADE FIVE

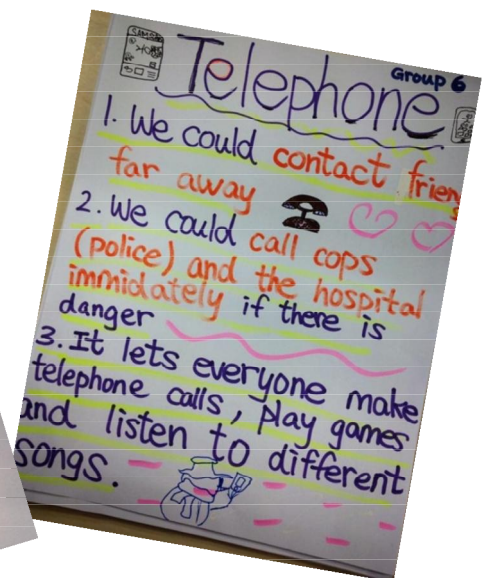
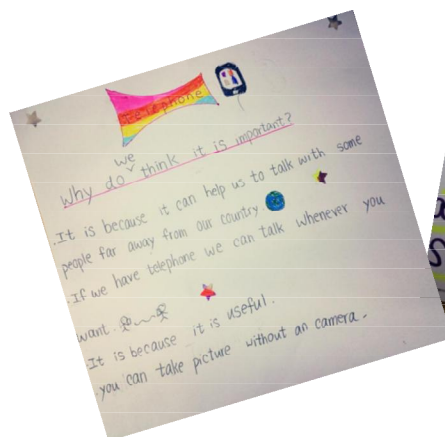
Our Grade 5 students are currently having a fruitful time in the new module *Inventions*. Students have become little researchers, finding information about different inventors and their inventions. They also had a fun and mind-stimulating discussion on what they think the most important invention is. In addition,



students put on their thinking caps, generating interesting questions about inventions such as “Why was the table invented?”, “When was the toilet invented?” and “Who invented toilet paper?”.

As the module progresses, we will learn more about

different inventors and read about their life stories. Students will also be given the opportunity to apply the brainstorming technique “SCAMPER” to invent their own products! Boys and girls, are you ready to be an inventor?



GRADE SIX

What is SCIENCE?

Every day, you wake up when you hear the beep of your alarm clock. Then you quickly get off your bed and turn the lights of the washroom on with a flick of the button. While you are washing your face and brushing your teeth, your helper is in the kitchen toasting bread for you. Afterwards, you turn the TV on while you are enjoying your breakfast...

The list can go on and on and it seems that science and technology are deeply- and widely-rooted into our everyday life. Now, let's have a look at what our Grade 6's think of "Science".



Science refers to a list of technologically advanced products, like iPad, computers, iPhone and different kinds of software. It also relates to inventions, innovations and technology.

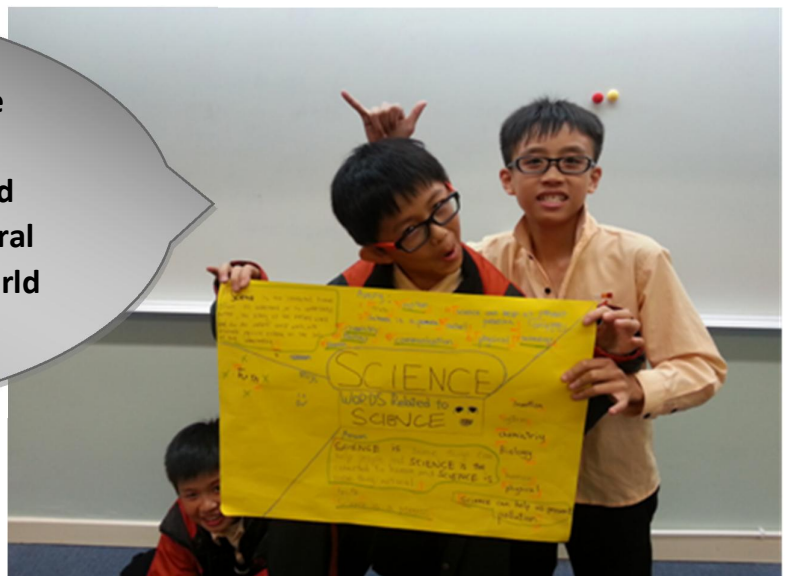
Science is related to Chemistry, Physics and Biology. It also includes a list of chemical elements like Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium and Aluminum.





Science improves communication between people, especially with those who live far away. We can even explore space because we have more advanced technology.

Science is a process. It is the concerted human effort to understand, or to understand better, the history of the natural world and how the natural world works.



Science is the interactions between living and non-living things and the environment. We can also use science to explain some natural phenomena.



EPA

English Week

English Performing

Arts

In December, our school designated one week as English

Week. From the 10th to the 14th of December,

an annual English week was successfully held. In this period of time, a series of activities was held at lunchtime to create an atmosphere of using English on campus.

We had dance, music, joke, singing and drama performances.



Our students experienced English in a language-rich environment. The performances were a culmination of what is taught in the English Performing Arts (EPA) syllabus.



In other words, students learned the skills needed for the activities during EPA lessons.

The performances arranged were thoroughly enjoyed by the students as many of them came back to watch the English week show nearly every day. Some students expressed their wish to have more of such shows in the future.

It was a busy and exciting week for all of us. We are looking forward eagerly to our next English Week in the month of April.

English Week Excitement with Dance, Drama & Songs





Grades 3 & 4



Writers' Corner



A funny dream

By 3B Cherie Che

One peaceful and quiet night, when the bright moon rose in the dark sky, I was sleeping on my soft bed having a funny dream. In my dream, there were many talking animals, beautiful gardens, sparkling water and a big palace.

When I was dreaming, I felt like I was in the story of Alice In Wonderland. Then, I asked a little rabbit, "Where am I?" He smiled and said in a cute voice, "You are in Wonderland!" As I heard those words, something hard grabbed me and said, "Welcome Alice!" before I could tell my name was Cherie, he took me to a beautiful dining room. There was a lot of yummy food, such as jelly, sweet pie, fresh fruit and a huge cake. Then I realised the man who took me here in the dining room was the Hatter. The Hatter sang funny songs and danced a funny dance called Hip Hop.

When I woke up, it was a bright and sunny morning. I hope that tonight I could have another dream.

Brazil



By 3C Alice Lo

Brazil is a country. It is the fifth largest country. It is in South America. The capital city is called Brasilia. Brazil has a flag with 3 meaningful colors, yellow, blue and green. It means different things. Yellow is for gold, blue for sky and green for fields.

The people in Brazil are called Brazilians, there are large amounts of people in Brazil, and there are over 205,000,000 million people in Brazil. People mainly speak in Portuguese, but nowadays, people speak in Spanish and English. The currency in Brazil is called real. Bobo de camarao is a famous dish in Brazil. Brazilians love football, they are the first football team to have won the World Cup five times. Woooo! So cool!

The landmarks in Brazil include Sugar Loaf Mountain; it has a statue of Jesus on top of the mountain. There are also places like Iquacu Falls, and the longest river called Amazon River. The Amazon rainforest has a lot of deadly animals.

In February, there is a carnival, people dress up and dance to Samba music. Brazil has different seasons from ours. Summer is in February, winter in July. Brazil women wear dresses. Most of the Brazilians are Catholics, some are Christians, and some are Buddhists.



My trip to Beijing

by 3P Queena Wong

I went to Beijing with my family during mid-term break. I was very excited before I went there.

When we got there, it was very windy at the airport. Then, we went to a hotel. The hotel is very big! We went to have dinner afterwards. We had dinner in a street full of food to eat. The food was very delicious!

The next day, we went to A Li Shan Park. We took the train to get to the top of the mountain. It was very cold but fun! We stayed in another hotel that night.

On the last day, we went to a farm. It was huge! I saw lots of sheep there and they were very smelly! I bought food for them and I could feel their saliva dripping all over my hand! Yuck!



Little Poets from 3M

"Me", by Parco LI

My lip was made of stone,
My mouth was made of mosquitoes.
My ear was made of bone,
And my hands were made of wood.

"Lies", by Elizabeth ROWE

My body is made of
chips,
and my eyes of soccer
balls.

My hands are dolls,
but they are creepy!

My mom is a zombie,
and my dad is a
vampire.

My brother is
Frankenstein,
and I am on fire!

"Pui Kiu College", by Angela LAM

Teacher Angela looks like a flower,
Teacher Kelvin looks like a giant tower.
My school bag is heavy like a huge
stone,
my school bag looks like a bone.
The Hall looks like a mountain,
The Hall looks like a dinosaur.

"Magic School", by Jake HO

My classmate is made of hairs,
and my pencil is made of bears.
Our teachers are made of mothers,
but my bag is made of fathers.
My books are made of water.

Surprise! Teacher Natasha here!

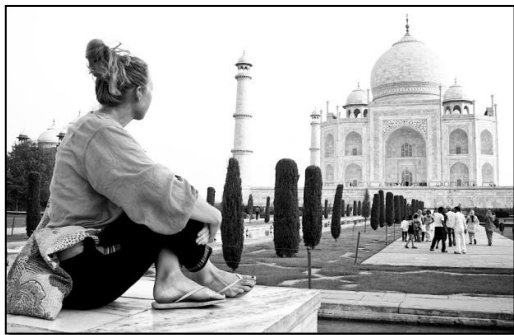
It's been exactly one year since I left PKC so I thought I'd write to say a big 'HELLO!' and tell you all about what I've been getting up to since I left Hong Kong.



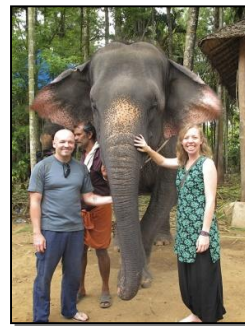
So far it's been one big adventure and many little adventures all rolled into one!

So here's the story...

When I left Hong Kong at Easter, I didn't go straight back to
Instead as many of you know, my husband and I took a little



Nepal and India for 3
Some of the mini
on our trip included
the Himalyas to the
Annapurna (the 10th
mountain in the world),
safari by foot to look for wild rhinos, marvelling at the
beauty of the Taj Mahal,



the UK.
detour via
months.
adventures
trekking in
base of
highest
going on
relaxing on tropical beaches,
hair-raising bus journeys, camel safaris in the very hot desert and cruising on riverboats on the
backwaters in Kerala. As well as this, we tried lots of new and delicious foods, met many
friendly local people and made lots of new friends to share our memories with.



We have now been back in the UK for 6 months. In which time I have been teaching at a new school called Portishead Primary School in a town called Portishead in South West England. I am teaching a wonderful Year 2 class and am also senior manager of the lower half of the school (ages 4-8). School is very different here compared to Hong Kong as each class has all their subjects taught by the same teacher instead of specialist teachers. The school is a lovely community school built next to a marina. We have lots of swans gathered round the gates every morning and we've even just recently had snow!



Check out this recent snowy view from my house window!



Being back in the UK now means I get to explore lots of new places in Europe with my camera! In February, my husband and I are going on holiday to Krakow in Poland for one week and then at easter we will travel to Barcelona in Spain to visit our friends and then to Scotland for a few days...pewh...very busy! I don't think I will ever stop traveling!

And, of course, being here also means that I get to spend lots of time with my family. This year is a very exciting year for me as I am going to be an auntie for the first time in February and my brother is getting married in the summer so I will gain a new sister-in-law. I get to have lots of shopping trips with my mum too so I'm definitely enjoying that!

Well, it's time for me to say goodbye for now, but you never know when I might pop up in PEN again!

I would like to wish everyone at PKC a very happy Chinese New Year. I miss you all lots and wish I could be there to celebrate the year of the snake with you all.

AROUND CAMPUS

