



# Starfish

Lai King Catholic Secondary School

English Newsletter 2010 Issue 1

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## The Principal's Message



Dear Students, Teachers, Staff and Parents,

What a wonderful occasion this is for all of us to celebrate the inaugural issue of *Starfish*, the first publication written entirely in English in the history of Lai King Catholic Secondary School. Congratulations and thank you to all of the students, teachers and staff who contributed to the success of this illustrious work!

The story goes that a parent and child were walking along the beach one day when they noticed that hundreds of starfish had been swept onto the shore. The child intuitively began to pick one up and gently throw it into the ocean. The parent asked, "What are you doing?" and the child replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If we don't throw them back, they'll die." "Child," the parent said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? We can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the child bent down, picked up another starfish, and returned it to the surf. Then, smiling at the parent, the child said, "It made a difference for that one," and the parent joined.

Here at LKCSS, we all-teachers, staff, students and families-believe that we can make a difference. *Starfish* is also the symbol of the Invitational Education approach, wherein five dynamics work together to make a difference in educating our youth: people, processes, programmes, places and policies. Our *Starfish* is one of the many ways we seek to support student development and achievement. I'm sure we will all enjoy reading and contributing to *Starfish*, which is filled with helpful information, highlights of some of our exciting activities thus far in the year, engaging reflections, interviews, wisdom from past and present students and endearing poetry from even the youngest students of LKCSS. There is something for everyone, including fun word games that I know you will want to try.

What an inspiring display of the many talented individuals of our LKCSS community, and what a wonderful invitation for us all to join in the fun of using English!

God Bless,

**Ms. Louisa Lo Wing Kum**  
Principal

# Editorial Message



Publishing a school magazine is not a piece of cake, especially when this is the first English publication in LKCSS history. Certainly, everyone is eagerly anticipating what our concerted effort and brainchild will achieve. Our students are brilliant, diligent and talented. Flipping through students' contributions, alumni sharing, interviews and photographs of various activities, we began to discover the potential and capacity of our schoolmates. We were also pleased by the remarkable language skills and broad vision that our schoolmates exhibited in their writings. We see this as our mission to portray the understated but exceptional qualities of our schoolmates in the school magazine.

At the outset of being appointed to be an editor who is required to lead a team of committees and to assist teachers in garnering information to write the editorial message, I had no idea of what I should convey to our fellow students. Obstacles baffled us. However, Miss Fung and Mr Leung lit a match inside our heads that enabled us to form our own ideas and be creative once we got back on track. We thank them for their guidance. We put our heads together. In the process of making our school magazine, division of labour was essential. Here, I would like to express my gratitude to the teachers, committees and participants in producing such strenuous but tremendous work. Without everyone's endeavours, our magazine would not have produced such success. I truly cherish every moment of collaboration with you all.

**6A Hayley Wong Hei Yu**



Throughout the whole course of our years here at LKCSS, we should always bear in mind our school's notable facets. I would like our fellow students to give us support and offer new ideas or improvements in publishing future school magazines. Last but not least, we hope you will enjoy reading our first English magazine. Thank you!

In this issue, you'll read about:

- Our Principal's Message
- Editorial Message
- 61<sup>st</sup> Speech Festival Results
- Interview with our NET
- English Activities
- Words from Past Students and Senior Form Students
- Students' Poems and Fun Games

We hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter!

# Highlights of the 61<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Secondary Schools Speech Festival



5C Lai Mei Fong

LKCSS had 83 entries in this year's Solo Verse Speaking, Public Speaking and Choral Speaking competitions. A total of 118 students from S.1 to S.7 participated in the 61<sup>st</sup> Speech Festival. It is again our pride to announce the promising and encouraging results of our students. Of all the participants, we earned one championship

award, 6 second place and 8 third place awards, along with 41 students earning Certificates of Merit and 25 Certificates of Proficiency. Such glorious results serve as inspiring demonstrations of our students' linguistic abilities, creativity, as well as the concerted effort of our teachers.



3B Leung Hoi Ching

4E Chan Hoi Yan and 4E Tam Ho Yi

## Winners:

Champion:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:
5C Ng Yuk Yee Cafil	1A Pang Ha
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place:</b>	2D Yeung Fat Yung
2D Chan Yuk Miu	3B Chan Wai Kwan
3B Leung Hoi Ching	3B Chan Wing Chiu
4D Lam Chow Ping Samantha	4C Yung Yau Kwan
4E Lam Tsz Fun	4E Chan Hoi Yan
4E Tam Ho Yi	5C Lai Mei Fong
S1-S2 Choral Speaking	6A Wong Hei Yu

## Certificates of Merit:

1A	Li Chun Yin	K37
1A	Yuen Hiu Ching	K37
1A	Wai Sheung Man	K62
1B	Chow Chi Chung	K62
1B	Lee Fai Tung	K37
1B	Leung Kwai Wa	K37
1C	Ling Nim Yan	K37
1C	Mok Wing Sum	K37
1C	Wong Hei Wan	K37
1E	Wong Tsz Ho	K62
1E	Chan Hoi Tung Ivy	K37
1E	Choi Hau Ying	K37
1E	Chow Cheuk Laam	K37
1E	Nip Shi Lam Samantha	K37
2A	Cheng Wai Shan	K40
2A	Chung Yui Ting	K40
2A	Kam Wai Ki	K40
2D	Cheng Pui Pui	K38
2D	Wan Ching Ki Christy	K39
3B	Chan Wing Sum	K42
3B	Chan Shing Hong	K65
3B	Lau Ka Yan	K42
3B	Chu Hiu Ki	K43
3D	Li Kam Chak	K65
3D	To Shiu Him	K66
3E	Cheung Hiu Man	K42
4B	Yau Ka Hang	K44
4B	Yip Yvonne Diaz	K45
4C	Law Hiu Tung	K46
4D	Chan Pui Ying	K45
4E	Lau Chun	K68
4E	Leung Ka Wai	K68
4E	Chan Hei Yee	K67
5C	Sau Yik Ching	K47
6A	Kwong Lok Yan	K49
6A	Tsang Chau Yin	K49
6B	Chiu Kwok Ho	K70
6B	Cheung Pui Shan	K49
6B	Fung Megan	N196
6B	Chan Yuen Yi	K49
7B	Yu Kam Pan	K70

## Certificates of Proficiency:

1A	Wu Sau Ling	K37
1B	Chan Sheung Yuk	K37
1B	Cheung Mei Yi	K37
1B	Cheung Sin Yu	K37
1B	Lee Yiu Shing Dennis	K61
1C	Tsoi Tsz Kin	K62
1C	Tsang Yuen Yee	K37
1C	Wong Sze Nga Ann	K37
1C	Wong Tsz Hin Ricky	K62
1D	Chan Ka In	K37
1D	Chan Wing Tung	K37
1D	Lai Hiu Lam	K37
1D	Lo Ngai Yan	K37
1D	Tai Yan Wing	K37
1D	Wong Kee Hang	K37
1E	Yang Ting Yu	K37
1E	Choi Chun Han	K37
2A	Yip King Sing Dennis	K64
2D	Cheung Kiu Wai	K39
2D	Chu Ka Wai	K39
2D	Fan Hiu Nam	K39
2D	Tang Ho Ying	K39
2E	Lam Nga Sze	K38
3A	Chan Mei Ting	K42
5C	So Ka Wai	K47

# An interview with our new NET teacher, Mrs. Perri Tong



This year, a great teacher has joined our family. She is always surrounded by our schoolmates. She is Mrs. Perri Tong, our new NET teacher.

Our reporters recently interviewed Mrs. Tong about her life in HK and LKCSS. We hope you will know more about her after reading this interview.

**Student reporters:**

**We know you are from San Francisco. How did you adapt to the new living environment in Hong Kong? What's the biggest difference between San Francisco and Hong Kong?**

Mrs. Tong:

My husband and I both visited Hong Kong many times before moving here, so I was familiar with Hong Kong. His mother actually grew up here, and it's been fun to get to know more parts of the city and people with her help.  
Hong Kong and San Francisco have a lot in common actually. Both cities are very modern, while they also have charming, old-fashioned qualities too. I think one of the biggest differences between the two places is the weather. As you know, Hong Kong is quite humid, especially during the summer, but California summers have a dry heat, often with a cool breeze.

**Student reporters:**

**We know you like watching movies in your spare time. What do you think of Chinese movies?**

Mrs. Tong:

They're excellent, and I love them! Some of my favorites are 'House of Flying Daggers,' 'Hero,' 'Red Cliff' and 'Infernal Affairs.' The performers were fantastic, and I love the rich imagery of the films, too. I also appreciate the clever writing and historical settings of the films.

**Student reporters:**

**Can you tell us which movie stars you like?**

Mrs. Tong:

Wow, there are many who are talented! I don't get very caught up in movie stars or celebrities, but I do admire the skills of gifted performers. I like Gong Li a great deal because she possesses strong intelligence, grace and skill in portraying many different types of characters. I also like Bruce Lee. Not only was he successful in his Kung Fu craft and in shooting movies, but also in terms of his influence on society. He was a philosopher who cared a great deal about helping society. That's why I admire him.

**Student reporters:**

**What do you think of our school?**

Mrs. Tong:

LKCSS is wonderful. Teachers, students, and staff here have all impressed me greatly by their hard work, kindness and incredible skills in English. I enjoy teaching here, and hope that you all enjoy LKCSS too.

# English Department Activities

## Daily Morning Assemblies: 2-Minute Dialogues in English

Starting with all of the students in Form 7 and continuing with students in other forms, 6 down to 3, two different students have paired up to share 2-minute dialogues every day. The topics focus on high-interest weekly themes, such as entertainment, science, cultural traditions, technology, the environment, drug abuse, crime, etc. Key words are posted up on the ground, first and second floors. Students' English teachers work with students on their scripts, and after our NET does a final check for authenticity of English, she works with the students on delivery (pronunciation, intonation, etc.). In addition, students in Forms 1, 2 and 3 do freewrites on these weekly themes.



Morning Assembly

## Reading Aloud Programme: Thursdays at Lunch

Students in Forms 1 and 2 were all given their own copy of the Reading Aloud booklet of 14 texts on high-interest topics, such as favourite pastimes in Hong Kong, sports, global warming, debating the merits of homework, etc. Each week, students were told which text to prepare, and after lunch on Thursday, they stayed in their classrooms to read the passage aloud to a teacher or Ambassador. Our NET pre-recorded each text, and students were shown in their English classes how to access the recordings on the e-class in order to improve their delivery. Students earned up to 3 marks, and ultimately, this booklet was utilized for part of their Term 1 Oral Exams.



Reading Aloud Programme

Reading Aloud Programme

## Language Week: 7–11 December, 2009

Songs in English were broadcast on two days at lunch, along with explanations of their meanings by two student "DJs" (Ambassadors who prepared engaging dialogues to introduce each song).

Game stalls on two days at lunch included a word identification game called "Hangman," a board of riddles, and another board of tongue twisters.

Proverb searches were conducted throughout the school where students needed to match the beginning of a proverb in English with its correct ending (posted elsewhere).



Language Week

## English Corner: Daily at Lunch

The English Corner is open daily for students to play games (such as Scrabble, Monopoly, word/picture cards, etc.) or simply chat in English with our NET and fellow students, including Ambassadors.



English Corner

# Sharing from Our Senior Form Students



## Learning English

7B Li Lam

English is usually considered a difficult subject because there is a multitude of vocabulary for us to remember. Worse still, the multifarious grammar is another hard job for us. However, the biggest obstacle hindering us from learning this language is our own fear of it. So, how can we overcome our fear? A lot of teachers suggest reading English books and newspaper. There is no doubt that this is a good way to learn English. But which books should we choose?

I think the *Harry Potter* and *Narnia* series are good choices. First, these two stories are both well-known and engrossing. As these books are aimed at children, it is easier for us to understand the content. When you read the books, try not to write down the Chinese meaning above the vocabulary as this will attract all your attention on the Chinese only. You can attempt to guess the meanings of the words. If some difficult words prevent you from understanding the context, you should look those up in the dictionary. Teachers can also help you. After reading several episodes, you will definitely overcome your dread of English, and learning English will then be a more relaxing and happier work. Therefore, why not pick up an English book and start reading it now?



## Ways for Improving English

7B Li Bun

In an international city like Hong Kong, high ability in using English is a prerequisite for one's success. The question is, *how* can we effectively improve our English?

Undeniably, getting more exposure to English plays the central role in improving one's English. On weekdays, we should grasp every golden opportunity to use English. The simplest one is to finish teachers' assignments seriously. For example, we can try our best to write an essay with abundant content. During the process, we may encounter many difficulties with vocabulary. Thus, we should make every effort to check those words we don't know in a dictionary. Also, we can take notes of the words and try to imprint the words on our minds. After teachers have returned the essays to us, we can study teachers' comments in detail. If

we still have any questions, we can ask them. Teachers are more than willing to help us solve these problems.

Let's try to use the methods above to see if they are useful. Finally, remember that man proposes, and God disposes. Whether one's English is good or not does not rely on aptitude, but diligence. I hold firm to my belief that everyone can improve her or his English with **hard work**.

# Sharing from our Past Students

We have invited two past students to share with us how they studied English to get good results on public exams. We hope you will get some ideas to improve your English learning.

2009 Form 7 Graduate: Mavis Chan Hoi Wun

2007 CE English: Grade 5\*

2009 A-Level Use of English: Grade A

The key to getting better grades in public exams is **PREPARATION**. Preparation means to plan ahead and start studying for your exam as early as possible. A timetable is very useful, and you should include enough breaks for yourself between studying sessions. Don't burn the midnight oil before an exam because you surely don't want to be dozing off and drooling on your exam paper the next morning!



2009 Form 7 Graduate: Connie Wu Hing Ting

2007 CE English: Grade 5 & 2008 CE English: Grade 5\*

2009 A-Level Use of English: Grade B

To many, English learning can be a daunting task. Therefore, I'm thankful to have had Ms. Joanne Yu, who gave me much encouragement and feedback on my writing. Some other big thanks to Ms. Shelia Wu, for her effort to organize recurrent oral practice groups during our free lessons.



Quite frankly, I'm not a conventional language learner who relies on repetitive exercises. Instead, to make the whole learning experience interesting, I turned to foreign sitcoms, like the geeky *The Big Bang Theory*. However, good English grammar is always important in both communication and EXAMS. So listen up, A-Level students: **work harder on MC cloze and proofreading**. It'll be VERY rewarding!

# Students' Poems

## Friends

2D Connie Tang Ho Ying

Friends look like lovely toys,  
they make you happy.  
Friends taste like a candy,  
they make you sweet.  
Friends smell like a juicy apple,  
they are very cute.  
Friends sound like thunderstorms,  
they also talk to you.  
Friends feel like a relaxing sofa,  
they are very friendly.

## Blue

1C Mok Wing Sum

Blue looks like the sky  
Blue is my uniform  
Blue is my glasses  
Blue is my school bag  
Blue makes me feel comfortable  
Blue tastes like blueberries  
Blue feels like water  
Blue feels like ice  
Blue makes me swim  
Blue feels like sleep on the cloud  
Blue is my favourite colour

## Cindy

1B Cindy Cheung

Candy is my favourite food  
Important it's too fat  
Not eat too much of it.  
Do you like to eat candy?  
Yummy! Yummy! Very yummy!



## Word games

### A. Word Search - countries

Look for the following countries in the puzzle. These words can be found backward, forward, diagonally and vertically.

L	E	S	D	Z	H	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	O	B
Q	N	F	C	Q	R	B	J	F	S	H	U	E	V	A
D	G	K	H	O	T	P	Y	G	E	S	E	J	L	V
A	L	P	V	A	T	A	A	V	T	C	R	F	Z	I
N	A	X	D	E	B	L	G	R	N	S	K	I	W	R
D	N	E	C	V	U	Q	A	A	D	E	A	N	N	E
D	D	O	R	N	D	L	R	N	N	N	D	D	H	L
N	R	G	U	O	I	F	A	Y	D	U	A	I	O	A
A	S	H	R	A	P	L	A	V	V	F	N	A	A	N
L	G	J	U	E	R	A	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y	D
I	S	T	H	E	E	T	G	H	K	Y	C	Y	B	R
A	I	E	H	F	R	C	Q	N	M	A	L	Q	R	L
H	Q	T	L	M	H	I	E	K	I	I	Z	A	Z	A
T	E	M	P	A	F	N	I	A	P	S	U	F	T	T
N	V	F	P	L	W	S	D	Z	W	B	A	G	W	I

THAILAND  
SINGAPORE  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
ENGLAND  
SCOTLAND

WALES  
IRELAND  
AUSTRALIA  
NETHERLANDS  
EGYPT  
KENYA

GREECE  
SPAIN  
ITALY  
INDIA  
AMERICA  
CANADA

### B. Word Grid

How many 3-letter or longer words can you make using the letters in this word grid? You must use the letter in the middle box. Each letter can be used only ONCE in each word.

P	I	C
I	<b>N</b>	O
T	N	E

(8 is good, 18 is very good, 28 is excellent)

# Students' Poems

## Friends

2E Shum Yuet

## Pong

1B Chui Chun Pong

Playing computer games with my friends.

On Saturday, I swim with my brother and mum.

Nine people eat a pizza together.

Going to my grandmother's home on Sunday.

As kind as family

As crazy as fireworks

As funny as clowns

As friendly as puppies

As sweet as candies

As lazy as pigs

## Answers

### A. Word Search

L	E	S	D	Z	H	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	O	B
Q	N	F	C	Q	R	B	J	F	S	H	U	E	V	A
D	G	K	H	O	T	P	Y	G	E	S	E	J	L	V
A	L	P	V	A	T	A	A	V	T	C	R	F	Z	I
N	A	X	D	E	B	L	G	R	N	S	K	I	W	R
D	N	E	C	V	U	Q	A	A	D	E	A	N	N	E
D	D	O	R	N	D	L	R	N	N	N	D	D	H	L
N	R	G	U	O	I	F	A	Y	D	U	A	I	O	A
A	S	H	R	A	P	L	A	V	V	F	N	A	A	N
L	G	J	U	E	R	A	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y	D
I	S	T	H	E	E	T	G	H	K	Y	C	Y	B	R
A	I	E	H	F	R	C	Q	N	M	A	L	Q	R	L
H	Q	T	L	M	H	I	E	K	I	I	Z	A	Z	A
T	E	M	P	A	F	N	I	A	P	S	U	F	T	T
N	V	F	P	L	W	S	D	Z	W	B	A	G	W	I

### B. Word Grid

cent	coin	con
cone	icon	inception
inn	ion	net
nice	nicotine	nine
nip	none	not
note	notice	one
pen	pent	pin
pine	pint	piton
point	ten	tin
ton	tone	tonic

AND MANY MORE!