



Starfish

Lai King Catholic Secondary School

English Newsletter 2010 Issue 2

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Address: 1 Lai King Hill Road, Lai King Estate, Kwai Chung, N.T. Website: www.lkcss.edu.hk Tel: 2744 1610 Fax: 2744 9134

Editorial Message

How time flies! We hope the 2nd issue of STARFISH will delight you with the last wave of English activity updates before the term break! In this issue, you can read about:

- Editorial Message
- Interview with Ms Chow
- Sharing from Student Teachers
- Teachers' Professional Workshops
- English Activities
- Summer activities
- Tips for learning English from S6 Students
- Student's poem

Can't wait to explore the exciting contents? Enjoy!

We also welcome writing from students. Don't hesitate! Send us your works to starfish.lkcss@gmail.com. You will receive a certificate if your work is published!



Interview with New English Teacher – Miss Chow

2D Interviewers: Ng Tsz Wai, Chan Yue Hang and Yeung Fat Yung



Q: What was your job before you became a teacher, and why did you choose this job?

A: In fact, I was already a teacher before I came to this school, and I must say that I love to teach. I think teaching is a wonderful job. Spending time with students and seeing them grow give me remarkable satisfaction.

Q: Why did you choose to teach in LKCSS? How do you find the students and staff here?

A: To be honest, I did not know a lot about the school before I came. I saw the school's advertisement one day, so I sent an application letter, did an interview with the Principal, and here I am now as your teacher. I truly believe it's God's plan that I'm here. Having worked here for some time now, I honestly think that everybody here is lovely. The students are polite, and they show great respect for teachers. The staff here are also wonderfully nice and helpful.

Q: Can you share with us a funny or memorable incident at school?

A: There are simply too many such incidents! If I had to name one, it would be the surprise the 1E students gave me before Christmas. That was a particularly busy day, and I was rushing here and there trying to handle all students' matters before the holiday. I remember I was talking to some students, and suddenly the 1E students popped into view with a hand-made Christmas card in hand! It was very touching and made me happy.

Q: Do you have any expectations for your students?

A: Students in LKCSS are very self-motivated and diligent. I hope that you will all strive for your best academically and in other aspects of your lives. I also hope that you will enjoy learning English.

Student Teachers from the University of Hong Kong



Miss Presto Ng Yu Kiu

Teaching in LKCSS is definitely one of the most fruitful experiences I have had throughout my university studies. Whenever I encountered any problems or difficulties, there were always teachers like Miss Wu and Miss Yu to help me. The staff are also very helpful here with printing notes for me and arranging classroom settings for video taking. Students here are also very friendly. Their genuine love and care towards a stranger like me made me feel very warm and touched my heart. They indeed have good souls underneath. This is what I value the most about them.

Miss Iris Lai Wai Ming

Teaching at LKCSS was a valuable experience. In these two months, I was able to commit like other in-service teachers to teach and to participate in different events and activities at LKCSS, such as the anniversary of the school. It really made me feel that I was a member of this big family. I would also like to thank all the staff at LKCSS, who have given me so much warmth and care. Last but not least, I really like the two classes I taught, 3B and 1E, for being so friendly to me and giving me such an unforgettable teaching experience. I love you all!



We wish Miss Ng and Miss Lai enjoyable and fruitful careers ahead.

Teachers' Phonics Workshop



Under the English Enhancement Scheme, our school was funded to organize a series of Teacher Workshops on Phonics, which was conducted by renowned expert Mr Neil Clarke during July 2009. Teachers found the course interesting and useful. We integrate phonics teaching in our classroom teaching so as to help our students say and spell words. This concept is also in line with our weekly Reading Aloud Programme to read passages aloud and practise words with different sounds.



Guest speaker, Mr. Neil Clarke

Diocesan Short Stories Workshop

The HKCDSS ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION COMMITTEE organized the Short Stories Workshop on 15 Dec 2009 at our school. Mr Gary Harfitt, Teaching Consultant of the University of Hong Kong, was invited to conduct this workshop. Nearly 80 teachers from 23 Diocesan secondary schools joined this programme, and we had a good discussion on preparing the New Senior Secondary (NSS) Elective Module.



Guest speaker, Mr. Gary Harfitt

Language Week in May

S.1 Storytelling and S.2 Mini-Drama

Our English teachers always empower students with the freedom to be creative. These two class-based competitions are highly popular among our junior form students, and they offer valuable opportunities for our students to collaborate and explore the fun of the language. Our students have never failed to amaze audiences with their efforts and talents. Imaginative stories like "The Magic Paintbrush", "The Fire Practice" and "The Honest Woodsmen" were some of the outstanding performances.



Winners in S1 Storytelling Competition

Winners in S.1 Storytelling Competition		Winners in S.2 Mini-Drama Competition	
Champion	S.1A Pang Ha	Best Overall Performance	S.2B
Best Theme	S1A Tam Wing Sum	Best Acting	S.2D
Best Adaptation	S.1E Leung Tsz Wai	Most Creative Performance	S.2C
Most Creative Story	S.1D Dione Tai	Best Pronunciation and Intonation	S.2S
Most Interesting Story	S.1A Kwan Man Nga	Most Enthusiastic Performance	S.2R
Best Pronunciation and Intonation	S.1A Leung Ka Huen	Best Adapted Script	S.2A
		Best Group Participation	S.2E



2S Performers



2B, the Winning Team with Class Teacher, Mrs. Tong

Inter-School English Builder Awards

The EDB funded on-line English learning programme provides students with extra learning resources outside of the classroom to enhance students' English learning. Some S1 and S2 students earned "Outstanding Performance" awards in this inter-school programme, as shown below:

Inter-school Ranking in Hong Kong

Level	Class	Name	Ranking
1	1B	Cheung Tsz Hang	26
2	2B	Lam Kwan Yung	16
2	2B	Wong Chun Kwok	21



1B Cheung Tsz Hang and Principal, Ms. Lo

Talent Show in March 2010

Hosted by LKCSS this year, the annual Diocesan Talent Show has certainly gained momentum over the past few years. The event was held on 20th March, 2010 (Sat) and the number of schools and students participating in the event this year reached a record high, with 23 schools and more than 400 students. The performances were divided into three categories, namely: Drama/Musical, Verse-speaking and Miscellaneous. Mr. Gary Harfitt acted as the adjudicator for the event, and he was deeply impressed with the students' creativity and effort. He commended the event as a great success in helping students use and learn English in language arts and daily contexts. Our school won the 2nd runner-up award in the Drama category with a performance based on the theme of environmental protection. Integrating on-stage acting and movie clips specially edited by our school's 3D visual system, our school's performance was highly acclaimed by the adjudicator and audience alike. Prizes and certificates were presented to the winning schools by Mr. Dominic Chu Fu Yau, Assistant to the Episcopal Delegate for Education.



Song Dedication in Feb 2010

The English Society organized a 2-day programme of Song Dedications during lunchtime on 4-5 Feb 2010. Lots of students sent messages to their peers and teachers. Some teachers also sent messages to encourage their students by filling in the message slips. Some messages from the students were so touching that teachers will keep them in their memories.

Words from the DJs:

6A Hayley Wong

This was my first time and also my honour to have been selected as a DJ during the "Love Song Dedication Day". It is essential and worthwhile to express love to our beloved teachers, friends and family members. I cherished this opportunity to help our fellow schoolmates send their deep-hearted messages through the PA system. I enjoyed being a DJ for this programme.

6A Ho Ka Kit

I think this event was meaningful and interactive. It provided a good opportunity to let students express their emotions before the public exams, especially for S5 and S7 students. Support from classmates is significant in helping students face challenges. I hope all students can succeed in overcoming their difficulties. Remember the words from your friends and teachers.



S6 Inter-Class Debate in April 2010

An inter-class debate was held among the 3 Form 6 groups on 20 April 2010, with a common motion "that voluntary drug tests conducted in local secondary schools can help stop teenage drug use". Students from 6A spoke against their peers in 6B, and they were judged by a Form 6 English Teacher in 3 parallel sessions. 6A Hayley, 6A Alan and 6A Connie were the Best Speakers in the three identical debates, while the overall winner was 6A. Congratulations!



Friendly Debate with Ying Wa College in April 2010

After the Form 6 interclass debates, five students went on to a friendly debate with Ying Wa College on 29 April 2010 at their school in Nam Cheong. Hayley Wong Hei Yu, Connie Cheung Ching and Alan Cheung Ka Lun skillfully debated on behalf of LKCSS, while Freda Cheung Tsz Ling served as a student adjudicator and Ivan Ho Ka Kit as the team's adept alternate. LKCSS argued the affirmative "that voluntary drug tests conducted in local secondary schools is an effective way to help stop teenage drug use." Although the motion fell, LKCSS performed exceedingly well in this interschool debate, especially with seasoned opponents. Hopefully, students will get more friendly debating experience.



S6-S7 Joint School Oral Practice in December 2009

Form 6 and Form 7 students participated in the joint school oral practice on 29 Dec 2009 (Tue) with many other neighbouring district schools, like St. Francis Xavier's School, SKH Lam Woo Memorial Secondary School, Daughter of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic Secondary School, CNEC Christian College and TWGHs Chen Zao Men College. The students all found the programme very helpful. Let's see what they said about it.



Words from Students:

"I liked the discussion with other students, which was just like a real exam situation of talking with people that I am not familiar with," said 7A Ip Wai Lee.

"I found the comments from the teachers of other schools helpful. I was reminded to use simple language and clear sentence structures to avoid confusion," said 7B Man Ping Kwan.

"I got to know the English standards of students from other schools, so it was an invaluable experience for preparing for the public examination," said 7B Au Chin Pang.

S5 Joint School Oral Practice in May 2010

With the same group of neighboring schools in Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan, the S5 Post Mock Oral Practice was held at Lai King Catholic Secondary School on 29 May 2010 (Sat). Over 300 students joined the programme. Thanks go to Ms Wu, Mr Chau and Mr Yeung for organising and monitoring the programme, as well as serving as the oral examiners. The students got more experience in speaking English to different people, and we hope their confidence was enhanced.



NEW ZEALAND STUDY TOUR



From 17 July to 2 August 2009, nine F.1 and F.2 LKCSS students joined the New Zealand Study Tour organised by Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Schools Council (Secondary School Section). Altogether, there were 102 participants from a number of Catholic schools in Hong Kong. In Auckland, they lived with host families and attended English lessons at local secondary schools with their local peers.

The participants also joined some excursions in Auckland and Rotorua. They visited museums, an aquarium, a zoo, hot springs and some scenic spots like Sky Tower, the tallest free-standing structure in the Southern Hemisphere. They even watched penguins and kiwis at a short distance, and they learned more about the natural ecological environment of New Zealand and the indigenous Maori culture.

2D Fan Hiu Lam

During the New Zealand trip, we spent two days in Rotorua and had a chance to visit a farm, where we watched sheep-shearing (cutting the wool of a sheep). I was very excited as I had never seen a real sheep in Hong Kong! The host of the show sheared the sheep skillfully and explained how to remove its wool without hurting it. Finally, after he finished, he even threw the sheep's wool over to us!

I would like to thank my school for giving me this unforgettable experience during this past summer holiday, and I recommend this study tour to every one of you!



2D Yeung Nga Wun

During the trip, I stayed with my host family. It was an enjoyable experience because they were very friendly and looked after me patiently. At first, I was worried because I was not sure if I could communicate with them in English all the time. However, they were very nice, and after a few days, I felt comfortable and confident talking with them even though my English was not perfect.

Every day after school, my host parents always prepared a nice dinner for me. My host mum often took me shopping and sightseeing. On the last day of my stay, I bought a lot of food and made a Chinese dinner for my host family. They said it was very yummy! I find the study tour memorable because I have made many new friends, improved my English and learnt a lot about the history of New Zealand.

3B Wilson Chan

Thanks to the generous support of our school and teachers, I had a fruitful and wonderful study tour, which was a real eye-opener for me. Besides, my English has improved a lot since I had English lessons every day, and I had a lot of chances to communicate with Kiwi students. Another reason why my English has improved so much is that I hung out with my host family a lot. We liked to compare lives in New Zealand and Hong Kong, and we noticed quite a lot of differences between our lifestyles. Therefore, besides improving my English, I also learnt a lot about Kiwi culture by chatting with my host family. In fact, we've exchanged email addresses, and I hope we can keep in touch in the future.

If you want to spend your summer holiday in a meaningful way, why not join this study tour?



Oxbridge Summer English Camp

Under the English Enhancement Scheme funded by the EDB, an Oxbridge Summer English Camp is held in our school every year to promote better understanding and appreciation of different cultures between the young people of Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. Through a wide variety of fun learning activities, such as songs, games and dramas, students' interest in English learning is boosted.



This 5-day programme was run by a team of tutors carefully selected from the graduates and undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, assisted by teaching assistants recruited from local universities, as well as the English teachers of our school. During the camp, the tutors held interesting and interactive educational activities to ensure that all students were immersed in a pleasurable and relaxed learning environment.

On the last day of the camp, there was a Grand Closing Ceremony, in which all students were given a chance to perform on stage and were awarded with certificates and prizes as recognition for their efforts and achievements.



Student's Poem

School School School

3B Willie Chan Wing Chiu



Some say school is a big big family
Where we learn and live in reality.
However, I'd say it's a world of fantasy
Where we pursue knowledge and satisfy our curiosity.
No matter what, we should treasure this opportunity.

Some complain school is like hell
Where teachers furiously yell.
But I'd say it's as comfortable as a five-star hotel,
And actually, all teachers here are very nice as well,
Though one day, we'll have to say farewell.

Lacking knowledge or not having any friends?
Kids, wait no more and let your torture end.
Come to my school, that's what I recommend.
Seriously we learn, and gradually we ascend.
School is our second home, on which we can all depend!

Learning Tips from S6 Students



6A Cheung Ching, Connie

I got a satisfactory result in HKCEE English, and I am convinced that English skills are not achieved in one day. It was really hard to revise English in the one-month study leave. If you want to have better English, you have to use English in your daily life. I once tried to speak in only English with my friends for one whole day! Thus, we should learn English day by day, like reading novels and writing in a diary.



6A Katie Cheung Hoi Ki

Many HK students are afraid of learning English. I was also one of them, and I used to hate it. However, I love music. I love listening to foreign songs rather than HK songs, so I started to learn the English lyrics and sing along with the singers. You can try to start learning in this interesting way if you also love music, like me. You will find it's really a good choice! Have fun and enjoy it yourself!

6A Ng Tsz Hin

Nowadays, English holds a high position in the world. If your English is not as good as others, what will you do? Although my English standard is not the best, there are some suggestions I would like to share with all of you. Watch more English programs in order to enrich your vocabulary. Moreover, oral practice is also significant for your public examinations. Read a short paragraph in front of the mirror every day to train your oral skills. I hope my suggestions can help all of you in the future.