# Around Lai Chack in 80 Years "We grow, We prosper"/

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Issue 7

Language Arts Corner

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Teaching New Literacies C through Short Stories

Lai Chack Middle School Will English Department

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Message from the Principal

#### Chapter 1

# Message from the Principal

Around Lai Chack in 80 Years - We grow, We prosper

It is a great honour to welcome readers to the second issue of Spotlight, the English magazine produced by Lai Chack Middle School. After the release of the first issue of Spotlight in July 2009, I have received considerable compliments from school heads, teachers and educators from around Hong Kong. Here, I would like to take this chance to express my gratitude to your favourable responses.

Indeed, 2009/10 has been a significant year for us not just because of the implementation of the 334 new academic structure, but even more because of our school's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary which marks a new milestone for Lai Chack. Established in 1929, over 80 years, faces and things of the school changed except one thing: teachers and staff of different eras have committed all the way through to the provision of quality education for our next generation. Looking back, we take pride in our achievements and the contributions we have made over the past decades. It is our hope that we must keep on nurturing our students to become proactive lifelong learners with a global perspective, must keep on nurturing our students to become proactive lifelong learners with a community at who can speak and write fluent English, and who have the interests of serving the community at who can speak and write fluent English. And who have the interests of serving the community at spotlight. In this issue, you are invited to witness the memorable moments we had in celebrating spotlight. In this issue, you are invited to witness and progress our students achieved in the English the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as well as the changes and progress our students achieved in the English

Through continuous refinement to our curricula and commitment to excellence, Lai Chack was once the "cradle" that nurtured countless distinguished alumni who now bear enormous influence on the community. Among the many successful alumni, I would like to specially acknowledge the support of Ms Connie Lau Ying-hing, Chief Executive of Consumer Council for being interviewed by the Editorial Team of Spotlight. We believe the reading of her stories and experiences would be both inspirational and enlightening.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the English teachers who have worked hard over a long journey to open up the gates for our students towards a fulfilling environment in learning the English language. Their selfless contributions and unfailing support should deserve commendations.

I hope reading this magazine would be a pleasure to you!

Mr Tsang Yau-shing

Principal Lai Chack Middle School

#### Lai Chack's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# LAI CHACK'S 801" ANNIVERSARY DU INVICORATING, ENCOURACING AND HEA







To honour the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the whole school was in a festive mood. Everybody was eager and excited. They had a hard time making wise and smart decisions on what to get themselves involved in. They were flooded with tons and loads of activities and programmes. The celebration had it all: joy, fun, nostalgia, religion and sport. The Walkathon, the display of relics, the religious service, the dinner party and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary athletic meet were highlights.

The celebration kicked off with the Walkathon on 29 March 2009. We were blessed with pleasant weather on a breezy Sunday afternoon. The principal, teachers, staff, parents, students and alumni all had one and a single goal in mind: to enjoy one another's company and contribute to future development and substantiality of the school.

At the display of relics were flocks and flocks of visitors who had a voracious appetite for knowledge about what it was like in the bygone days. Their curiosity got the better of them and they avariciously feasted their eyes on the relics. It was a once-in-alifetime opportunity to compare life now and then in Lai Chack.

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# REFLOWING WITH REWARMING ELEMENTS

The religious service was an appropriate time to show gratitude to what the founders, pioneers and trail blazers had done to make what Lai Chack was. All the people present came with a joyful and thankful heart.

The dinner party was an occasion on which bosom or long lost friends updated one another. Quite some people came from afar to recover sweet and affectionate memories of the good old days. We are not going too far to say that they were from the four corners of the world. They took the trouble to come all the way back for the homecoming gathering. In no time did tiredness from the long trip turn into excitement once they exchanged anecdotes.

Students thronged into Hammer Hill Sports Ground for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary athletic meet. Cheerleading teams who had a creative and innovative mind churned out catchy and roaring slogans and shouted encouragement to support the athletes who deserved admiration for their toughness, determination and sportsmanship. Perseverance is the athletes' middle name.

An octogenarian Lai Chack is, yet it is full of life and invigorating. Lai Chack will never ever get to the slow lane or cease and halt. It is always on the ongoing path. There are uncertainties in the field of education but we will strive to better ourselves in all aspects. We are assertive that we can weather crises, storms, hardships and challenges facing educationalists and embrace a hopeful future for the school. Lai Chack Middle School will uphold its ideals in the coming eighty years and further down the road.



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#### **Outstanding Alumni**

## INTERVIEW Wit

It is a great pleasure of our editorial team to interview one of our outstanding alumni, Ms Connie, Lau Yin-hing on 6 May, 2010. Being the Chief Executive of Consumer Council, Ms Lau has made enormous contributions to our society concerning the beneficiary of all the consumers in Hong Kong. The interview was inspiring and our team has learnt a lot from her experiences.

I would like to express my hearty thanks to my alma mater for inviting me to this good and valuable sharing session. I must say, modestly, I'm not the most successful as there are so many great alumni that have been doing a good job and giving good contribution to society. But I'm happy and glad to be interviewed by Lai Chack students and I look forward to the publication of the second issue of Spotlight. To be honest,

you may not know it, the day I received the first issue, I was having dinner with other alumni and we were so touched by the publication of an English magazine by our alma mater, a traditional Chinese school. So, in the restaurant, I wrote a letter of congratulation to the school supervisor and the school principal immediately, for the achievement of our young schoolmates. The letter was written by me in Chinese and then, one of my classmates wrote one too. He contributed his ideas in English and he sent all our comments to the school later. We were really so happy for our schoolmates' achievement.

#### Ms Lau, how do you usually feel when you visit your mother school, Lai Chack Middle School?

When I visit Lai Chack, I usually recall the good memory when I was young. For example, when I go to the basketball court or the kitchen where we had domestic lessons, memories of the good old days will be recalled. Also, I must tell you this, treasure the time you have in school because later on, you won't have it. I remember earlier I accompanied my mother back to the school to give scholarships to the very outstanding students; we were waiting for the ceremony to begin and so we went around the school and we talked happily about our memories as students at Lai Chack.

#### What was the most impressive thing or event when you studied in Lai Chack?

Those many things I can recall are good things. One of the most memorable things would be, well I don't mean to boost myself or to publicize myself, the moment when I was told that I got No.1 in the Joint College Entrance Examination in Taiwan.

#### Wow! That's great! We haven't heard of this examination. Could you tell us more about that?

It was an examination conducted in Hong Kong and an entrance examination for students going to universities in Taiwan, including National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Cheng Kung University and others. There were four exam groups, A, B, C, D. I took the exam group C and I got 471 marks, the highest score throughout Asia. If I may say, actually there are so many things worthy of talking, but if you ask me to pick one of them, this is the one.

#### Wow! That's amazing! How did you feel?

I was 17 that year and I was interviewed by Hong Kong Times. Actually I never thought that it was something special but suddenly, as a young student, I had never been exposed to such a high level exam, so I was very happy.

When I look back now, it was just an ordinary thing because in every exam, you always have one that outperforms the others.

#### Your family must be very proud of you!

Yes, I remember my family was very happy. My father is very experienced in Chinese calligraphy. He even wrote me a Chinese adage in calligraphy expressing how my achievement had given them pride as parents.

Well, to be honest to every one of you, to be good is a reward to your parents and a reward to your family. It's not just materials that count. Bringing them to 'yum cha' is good. Bringing them to shop is excellent. However, I think people highlight more on materials rather than spiritual reward to parents. I can imagine how happy my parents were at that time knowing that their daughter had achieved such results. You should also adopt this approach. Whenever you think about yourself and your behaviour, think about your family first. I have 5 siblings and I am the second one. But at that time, I was the eldest one. Why? My elder brother had gone to America, so I was the Big



Sister. To take up that role as the eldest sister, I think it is very important that you need to set a role model.

As a student, what kind of attitudes should we have towards studies? Is it all about public examination or is the learning process important too?

I think the learning process is more important than anything because the school doesn't only provide you with knowledge or examination skills. I think that the school gives you knowledge and also develops your character as well as communication skills so that when you go to college, you will be well equipped. For learning, I truly emphasize that you must pay one hundred per cent attention in the classroom. Actually, I was not a diligent student. I used to be lazy too. When I was a student, I liked to watch the TV programme 'Enjoy Yourself Tonight'. I think we should never daydream. Why? This is because we are now talking about cost effectiveness. If you pay enough attention in class, you will get double results by half the effort because you will have a picture about the lesson. Then, you will save the time spent on revision and you will still have time to watch 'Enjoy Yourself Tonight'.

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Ms Lau is an amiable lady. When we had the interview with her, I thought we were just like a family from Lai Chack and that was a great experience for us to know more about our alumni. After the interview, I know that many alumni still miss our school although they have left school. I'm quite sure that after my graduation, I will also treasure my school life at Lai Chack. Finally, I'm very proud of being a student in Lai Chack and I will set my goal to be a contributive person of society.



It is my pleasure to interview Ms Lau. It was a good experience to me. At first, I thought it was a big challenge. I was afraid of speaking English. However, it was an opportunity to build up self-confidence. Moreover, teachers had given us great support. When I interviewed Ms Lau, I felt nervous. Fortunately, Ms Lau was extremely friendly and she shared her learning experience with us. We had a handmade photo album and a thank-you card for her. She was so surprised. It was a great interview!



It is my gratification of being one of the interviewers to chat with Ms Lau who is one of the most outstanding alumni. This interview gave me an opportunity to know more about her learning experience and career. Furthermore, I also had ample chances to learn more interview skills in English. I think the most impressive was Ms Lau's learning experience. She said that she was lazy sometimes when she was a student. She reminded us that we should have 100% attention and no daydreaming in class. I enjoyed the interview very much.



At first, I was excited that I could join the interviewing team to interview Ms Lau, who is the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Consumer Council. Before the interview, I felt nervous. I thought that a chief executive would be serious, so I was afraid of talking to her. During the interview, she told us her learning experience and career. She was a very outstanding student that she got the highest mark in the university entrance exam. Her success teaches me that I must study hard. All in all, I think she is very kind. The interview gave me a good experience.

I am very glad to have an interview with one of the most successful alumni, Ms Lau. During the interview, I learnt a lot. Ms Lau said that we shouldn't ask how much our school gives us, but how much we can contribute to the school. Being a prefect and representing the school in competitions are what we can do for the school. In addition, Ms Lau shared with us her challenges in her job. It made me recall a dialogue in a movie called Julie & Julia. Julia always says "Don't be afraid" when she faces problems. As teenagers, we often face many difficulties but what should we do? Give up or confront? Keep trying is the key.



It is my pleasure to interview Ms Lau. It was my first time to interview an alumnus. I felt so excited. During the interview, we knew more about her learning experience and career. Besides, she taught us a lot of useful learning methods. I think it was a good opportunity to improve our communication skills and to be more confident. We should grasp all chances to learn English. Conducting an interview is a good occasion to learn English.



I was really lucky that I could have a great opportunity to interview our distinguished alumnus, Ms Lau. Before the interview, I thought she was a serious lady, so I was very nervous. In fact, she wasn't and on the contrary, she was very nice. After the interview, I learnt a lot of useful things, such as positive learning attitude and life skills. If I were given more chances, I would like to interview more celebrities to improve my presentation skills and raise my confidence.









#### INTERVIEW WITH MR YUEN -OUR RESPECTABLE VICE PRINCIPAL

#### **His Past**

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His dream job when he was young Mr Yuen has wanted to be a teacher since he was in primary school. When he was in primary school, he broke his forearm in an accident and was sent to hospital. While he was staying



in the hospital, his class teacher visited him many times. His teacher showed his love and care to him. He appreciated his work so much and was determined to be a teacher.

His feelings on his first day in Lai Chack Middle School On his first day in Lai Chack Middle School, Mr Yuen was a bit disappointed because our school was very small. However, he felt happy afterwards because his colleagues were very friendly and helpful. Besides, students were polite and willing to learn.

#### His Present

His most unforgettable memory in Lai Chack Middle School

Mr Yuen has a lot of unforgettable memories in our school. It is because he treasures every single



moment he spends with his colleagues and students.

#### Things he gained over so many years of teaching

Mr Yuen has gained a lot from Lai Chack Middle School. Apart from extensive teaching experience and job satisfaction, he has gained a lot of valuable friendships with some long-time working partners and some old students.

#### Reporters Anson, Man Yuk-wing 1B Tom, Chun Tung-lam 1B Apple, Sin Lau-ching 1B Vivian, Yip Shuk-kuen 1B Yu Wing-yi 1B Queenie, Zhou Jia-hua 1B

#### His Future

#### His plan for life after retirement

Mr Yuen will retire in August this year, but he hasn't got any big plans yet. However, he will spend more time on his interests such as aikido, sailing and photography. Moreover, he wants to set some new goals for his future.

#### Farewell words to encourage our students

Mr Yuen thinks that we are full of potential. He hopes that we can set higher goals for our future and treasure what we have now. Furthermore, he encourages us to work harder and be more active in learning.

#### INTERVIEW WITH MS CHERNYL NG — A NEW ENGLISH TEACHER

#### Reporters Tony, Lam Hung-cheung 6A Lam Hon-kuen 6B Lai Ka-ho 6B Terry, Ng Mau-chung 6B

#### Miss Ng, why do you want to be a teacher?

I was blessed to have many good teachers when I was in secondary school. They didn't just teach me knowledge in the textbook, but they also cared about us as individuals and helped us grow. They are my role models. I really want to pass on the knowledge and spirit I got from them.

#### How was your university life? Did you enjoy it?

University was so much fun! It was the most splendid time. We had many opportunities to enrich our knowledge, meet new friends and explore the exciting world. It was also the time that many of my friends and I began to understand the meaning of life. I really enjoyed it.



#### What kinds of food do you like?

I love seafood a lot, especially crab and oyster. I can't imagine how sad I would be if I were born allergic to seafood. Chocolate is also one of my favourites, but I don't like white chocolate. The darker, the tastier. Mint chocolate is good too. Chocolate can cheer me up when I am down.



#### Which country do you want to visit?

I studied Spanish at university for 2 years, but we seldom have chance to use this language in Hong Kong. I want to go to South America because Spanish is the official language of most countries there. I can really make use of and practise my Spanish in South America.

#### What would you do if you were given 10 million dollars?

Wow, that's a lot of money. I really don't know what I would do, but I think of a related short story entitled 'The Standard of Living' by Dorothy Parker. You can google it. It has deep meanings about the modern material life. I will tell you what I will do when I really have the fortune.

#### What is your dream?

I hope I can explore the whole world God has created for us. I also want to make a difference to others, especially my students, with love and knowledge.

#### **Reporters**

Ian, Lam Hon-chung 4D Edward, Too Ming-foo 4E Au Yeung Mei-ling 4E Cecilia, Leung Man-sze 4E

Name: Chan Ka Ngai, GarySex: MaleAge: 23Place of Birth: Hong KongHoroscope: SagittariusFavourite sports: swimming, badmintonFavourite food: risotto, sashimi, chicken wingsFavourite singers: Madonna, Mariah Carey, Eason ChanFavourite songs: Ray of light, Madonna<br/>We belong together, Mariah Carey

#### Reasons for Becoming a Teacher

Mr Chan chose to devote himself in the field of education because he enjoys helping others to learn. He feels so contented whenever students reflect their progress in learning, no matter how fast or slow, from their work. Communicating and interacting with students colour his life.

#### **His Future Plan**

Concerning his career, Mr Chan is now doing a master degree in Education since he wants to enrich himself with qualities of a good English language teacher. And for his personal life, he wishes one day he could meet "the one" and could travel around the world with his beloved as he enjoys travelling very much.





#### INTERVIEW WITH MR VINCENT LO A NEW ENGLISH TEACHER

#### Where were you born?

I was born in Canada. I lived there for over ten years. I came to Hong Kong when I was 11 years old and as far as I can remember I couldn't speak a single word of Chinese or use chopsticks properly. After more than 10 years of residing in Hong Kong, I have enough exposure to Chinese and I can use the language to communicate with students fluently.

#### Why did you choose to teach English?

I chose to teach English because I think it can help myself and at the same time help others. English is my gift ever since I was a little child so I wish to share my knowledge and my experiences as much as I can with all my students.

#### Why do you want to be a teacher?

There are various reasons why I want to become a teacher. First of all, I think teaching is one of the most rewarding careers of all. Everything that you have done in the classroom will eventually be gratified at the end of the day. Secondly, there are multiple responsibilities that need to be carried out. On a daily basis, you do not only take the role as an educator but also an administrator, a counselor and a school facilitator. Most importantly, I like teaching the most because I can test different methodologies in my classroom. I hope to build an open environment for my students to learn English and equip them for their future.



#### What are your hobbies?

In my spare time, I like to go shopping with my friends and my family. I also like to play basketball. In the past, I was a player of a high school basketball team. I also coached the junior Nike League basketball team during summer. It was a fun experience.

#### Do you have any goals in life besides teaching?

Some time during my life I wish to bring my family to travel around the world. I love to meet different people from other countries and explore different places. I try to treasure every moment I have with my family.

#### What is the best moment you had in LCMS so far?

I always value the time with my students. But if I were to choose one special moment in particular, I think it would be taking part in the fashion show this year. Every time I think of the costumes they wore, I find myself giggling beside my camera.

Reporters Lei Yan-kit 4D Chan Suet-yan 4D Mak Hoi-yan 4D Chan Shuk-chun 4D



#### OUR NEW ENGLISH TEACHER - MR KEVIN MAH

#### Where are you from?

I was born in Malaysia. My father is a Malaysian Chinese and my mother is from Hong Kong. I came to Hong Kong when I was in Primary 3. One interesting point is that I am a Malaysian who does not know Bahasa (Malaysian language). It is just like a British does not know English. It's a bit weird, right?

#### Why do you teach English?

Actually, I love English very much! However, I remember that when I was in primary school, my English was really bad that I was always punished by my teachers because I got low marks in my English dictations, tests and

examinations. When I got older, I tried to separate the words into parts and found my own way to learn English. Luckily, the method was effective that I gradually improved my English, which also provided me with some achievements in other subjects because they were all in English. Later, I realized the method is called "phonics". Since I have such an interesting learning experience, I would like to share it with others and help those who are not good at English to make some progress!

#### Do you like teaching in LCMS?

Sure! The teachers and the other staff are friendly and helpful in this school. I work happily with them. For the students, although some of them do not perform well in their schoolwork, most of them are obedient and cute! I really like to get along with them, and I hope they think the same as I do.

#### What are your hobbies?

I like sleeping and surfing the Internet. Also, I like going out with my friends for dinner and having fun together. Most importantly, I like playing basketball very much! I enjoy playing challenging games, so I like playing with those serious players. I played in school teams when I was studying, and I was the captain in my secondary school team. Now, I also play in an amateur league. Therefore, you can tell that I really love this game.

> Reporters Luk Suet-ying 2C Zhang Si-shi 2C Cheng Ping-keung 2C Ken, To Ting-hing 2C Wong Sui-cheong 2C







#### Background

The English Department has joined a QEF funded professional development and research project titled *Promoting New Literacies in Hong Kong Schools*. The research project is conducted by Dr Matthew Clarke (principal investigator), Ms Margaret Lo, Dr Jasmine Luk and Dr Svetlana Chigaeva (co-investigators) from the Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong. The aims are to support teachers' teaching strategies, enhance students' writing and reading experiences, develop students' ability to work with new technology and create room for students to apply technology in literacy activities. Along with the other 11 participating schools, our project has a focus on teaching new literacies through short stories as a bridging component from junior curriculum to NSS electives.

Two S1 classes and one S3 class took part in the project. In the new literacies classes, students were engaged in reading and analyzing short stories. They were exposed to essential reading strategies to deconstruct short stories, the elements that contribute to making a good story and a selfevaluation tool in assessing their writing and presentation skills. In the process of reading short stories, students cultivated an interest in performing a story using storytelling techniques together with their imagination and creativity.

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# Teaching New Literacies through

#### **Professional Development Workshop for Teachers**

Early Intervention for NSS Curriculum: Promoting New Literacies through Short Stories

DATE: VENUE: SPEAKERS: 8 March 2010 Lai Chack Middle School Dr Svetlana Chigaeva, Ms Cherry Wong, Ms Fion Li

In this workshop, all English teachers were excited to see how teaching and learning effectiveness could be enhanced through educational action research, ways to infuse new literacies in the English language curriculum, and to share insights, challenges and opportunities that are prevailing especially in time of curriculum reform.

# Short Stories: Digital Story Telling

#### Teacher Conference at The University of Hong Kong

#### **New Literacies in Action**

DATE: 20 March 2010 VENUE: Hui Oi Chow Science Building, The University of Hong Kong

As one of the participating schools of the QEF project, the English Department was invited to deliver a sharing presentation in the Teacher Conference: New Literacies in Action at The University of Hong Kong on 20 March. The presentation was then followed by a school display of students' works and teaching resource packages developed by teachers. The conference enabled our teachers to disseminate good practices in new literacies teaching and measures we introduced to promote the teaching of short stories in junior classes. It was considered a precious opportunity for our teachers to share experience and exchange ideas on the latest methodologies in language teaching with teachers, educators and academics from local schools and universities.

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#### The 61<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival

The 61<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival has come to an end. This year, over 70 students gained precious experience of language arts appreciation and performances through performing public speaking in different solo and group speaking events. In the solo speaking competition, 39 of our students attained proficiency and merit awards. Among the participants, Chan Yung-yung of S3A was awarded the third prize. Besides, for our young \$1 participants, it was their first opportunity to perform choral speaking in public and therefore, the attainment of a merit award has definitely been a powerful encouragement for both students and teachers. With the inspiring environment in LCMS, we are confident that our students will continue to gain fruitful experience and results in future events. Here, some students would like to share with us their meaningful experience in the event.

S3 Solo Verse Team

Reflections

S4 Solo Verse Team

Miaka, Yau Sai-nam 4B The Hong Kong Speech Festival 2010 has come to an end and I'm very grateful that I participated in this event as I have gained precious experience. During the whole process, Ms Cherry Wong supported us and spent a lot of time training and getting us ready for the event. She taught us how to present ourselves in public and be confident when facing the audience. More to the point, she taught us patiently and we learnt a lot from her. I hope to take part in the speech festival next year! Michelle, Lee Hoi-mei 3A It was my first time to participate in this kind of event. Surprisingly, I did not feel nervous! This might be due to the warm support from my fellow classmates. Throughout the event, I learnt a lot of useful words and their pronunciations. Although I did not get an award this time, I gained a priceless and unforgettable experience. Finally, I would like to thank Ms Fion Li because she was very patient when she was training us.

Speech Festival Team

#### Third Prize Gward

Maya, Chan Yung-yung 3A During the training period with my fellow classmates, my speaking and pronunciation skills have been improved considerably. As I had prepared well, I was not scared or anxious while I was doing my solo verse on the stage in front of the audience. At last, I was awarded the third prize in this competition. I was delighted and I've learnt to enjoy stage performance!

#### **Our Students' Achievements**

	Solo Verse	
3A	Chan Yung-yung	Third Prize
2A	Tin Ho-pang	Merit
2A	Ip Wing-tat	Merit
2A	Tzang Lang	Merit
2A	Leung Wing-hong	Merit
2A	Chong Tsun-ho	Merit
2A	Lau Wai-lok	Merit
2A	Wu Ka-man	Merit
2A	Leung Ka-yi	Merit
2B	Cheung Ying-hong	Merit
2B	Chan Chi-hang	Merit
2B	Chan Mei-ki	Merit
2B	Chan Po-yan	Merit
ЗA	Kwok Yin-man	Merit
3A	Lee Hoi-mei	Merit
3A	Lung Sui-shan	Merit
ЗA	Pan Yu-qing	Merit
ЗA	Cheung Kar-wai	Merit
ЗB	Ho Shuk-yee	Merit
ЗB	Lu Shu-miao	Merit
3B	Yeung Chuk-kwan	Merit
ЗB	Chung Hiu-ying	Merit
4A	Tin Wei-lung	Merit
4A	Li Yu	Merit
4A	Tsoi Hung-Sze	Merit
4B	Wai Lok-man	Merit
4B	Cheng Suet-ching	Merit
4B	Pat Hoi-wing	Merit
4B	Yau Sai-nam	Merit
4C	Leung Ka-wing	Merit
4C	Wong Hing-wun	Merit
4C	So Sze-man	Merit
4C	Chan Pui-kwan	Merit
3A	Yang Yi-he	Proficiency
3A	Lee Wai-ying	Proficiency
3B	Chow Ka-chung	Proficiency
3B	Lee Ka-yan	Proficiency
4A	Lo Chun-wai	Proficiency
4C	Chan Hing-hing	Proficiency
4C	Lam Chin-tung	Proficiency

Mixed Voices (Choral Speaking)								
1A	Chau Tsz-lam	Merit						
1A	Chiu Man-yiu	Merit						
1A	Hung Ka-lai	Merit						
1A	Lee Wing-lam	Merit						
1A	Mak Sin-wa	Merit						
1A	Ng Ting-yee	Merit						
1A	Pang Sin-ying	Merit						
1A	Lei Pik-ki	Merit						
1A	Ng Ka-lai	Merit						
1A	Yip Sheung-hung	Merit						
1A	Chin Kam-kit	Merit						
1A	Shum Ho	Merit						
1A	Poon Kam-on	Merit						
1A	Cheng Ming-fung	Merit						
1A	Chui Ngai	Merit						
1B	Mok Hau-kuen	Merit						
1B	Sin Lau-ching	Merit						
1B	Tang Zhuo-min	Merit						
1B	Wong Chui-ling	Merit						
1B	Yip Shuk-kuen	Merit						
1B	Au Kit-hung	Merit						
1B	Chen Hai-tao	Merit						
1B	Cheung Kit-lam	Merit						
1B	lp Ho-yuen	Merit						
1B	Lai Ka-chun	Merit						
1B	Lam Chun-tung	Merit						
1B	Man Yuk-wing	Merit						
1B	Ng Wing-kin	Merit						
1B	So Ka-yiu	Merit						
1B	Tsang Sze-ho	Merit						





#### The Harvard Book Prize

This year, 3 students from Lai Chack were nominated to receive the Harvard Book Prize 2010. The winners are Luk Hiu-yee 6B, Lau Ka-wai 6B and Au Wai-yee 6B. The prize, administered by the Harvard Club of Hong Kong, targeted at awarding outstanding S6 students who are able to combine excellence in scholarship and high character, with achievement in other fields. The winners of the prize were invited to attend the prize presentation ceremony at Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre and received the prizes from the special guest, Ms Christine Loh from Civic Exchange.





English Week 2010 took place from 11 Jan to 15 Jan. In the English Week, all students were indulged in "The World of Fashion", theme of the English Week this year. All activities in the English Week were related to "fashion", a word that may fascinate millions of people who keep pursuing a fashionable look. However, are there any rules dominating the fashion realm? What is fashion? Is fashion related to utility or individual identity? The movie, "The Devil Wears Prada" was chosen to provoke students' thinking and help them find answers to these questions.

Besides, English broadcast and song dedication served to introduce students to different types of fashion all around the world. Hot issues about fashion were chatted about on the air by our student DJs. Moreover, a fashion show called "Angels Wear Costumes" took place at our school! It was a fashion show with all the models and designers from different classes. Our fellow schoolmates are all top designers, brilliant tailors and marvelous models. This English Week is surely one of the most unforgettable memories in 2010!

#### Public Speaking and Debating Workshop

This year, it's our pleasure to receive the Diversity Learning Grant (DLG) from the Education Bureau. DLG is a grant that proposes programmes for gifted students in Hong Kong schools. Around 15 of our S4 students were selected to participate in the workshop. The aims of the workshop are to help students build confidence in public speaking and debating. Besides, it helps students to sharpen skills for structuring a presentation and delivering a speech. More significantly, it also exposes students to current and global issues from a critical perspective and enables them to form critical opinions supported with reasons and evidence.

At the end of the workshop, course participants took part in a debate competition in which they demonstrated the knowledge and skills learnt from the course. All participants have shown increasing enthusiasm in learning and performing public speaking and debating!

#### **Project Learning**

Project Learning has been proposed in "Learning to learn" by the Education Bureau as one of the Four Key Tasks in facilitating students to learn effectively and efficiently. It aims at developing students' independent learning capabilities and cooperating skills. Students are encouraged to give up their dependence on teachers and take the initiative to manage their own learning beyond the confines of classrooms. Our S2 Project Learning Day took place on 5 May 2010. Different S2 classes were divided into two groups with one group visiting The Hong Kong Museum of History and the other visiting The Hong Kong Heritage Museum. All students did onsite research on the different sites and characteristics of the museums and wrote a report about them.

Besides, students who went to The Hong Kong Museum of History produced a creative group project in order to enhance their own critical thinking skills and creativity. The themes of the projects were 'Hong Kong's Wedding Now and Then', 'Hong Kong's Transport Now and Then' or 'Hong Kong's Entertainment Now and Then'. For students who went to The Hong Kong Heritage Museum, they did another interesting project to show the differences between Chinese opera and Western opera. The events proved to be an interesting and meaningful crossover between classroom learning and societal experience!

#### **Chapter 8**

#### Comic Strips Based On The Book SHERLOCK HOLMES

The book *Sherlock Holmes* is a collection of preeminent detective short stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Our S4 students were inspired after reading about the brilliant detective Sherlock Holmes, his faithful and insightful friend Dr.John H. Watson and their exploits into the world of mystery and deduction. They created some interesting comic strips based on some of the story scenes. Let's look at their creative works!



By Joanna, Tsoi Hung-sze 4A Mabel, Ng Pui-mei 4A Liz, Lee Tsz-yin 4A Terri, So Hing-yi 4B



y Winnie, Ng Yuen-sze 4A Andrea, Au Weng-ian 4B Carmen, Xia Jia-wen 4A Kathy, Wong Ching-ching 4A

#### **Poems about our school and teachers**

In order to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lai Chack Middle School, some \$3 students wrote some poems to express their gratitude to their beloved school and teachers. Let's look at their creative works!

#### Ms Flora Chan

Flora Cheerful, optimistic, and amicable An English teacher Who loves chocolate, ice-cream, and sushi Who feels enthusiastic about teaching Who needs love, care, and support Who gives attention, encouragement, and assistance Who fears disasters, virus, and death Who'd like to see happy faces Who dreams of a peaceful world A student of parenting Chan

By Maya, Chan Yung-yung 3A Kwan Pui-sim 3A Denise, Pan Yu-qing 3A



By Maya, Chan Yung-yung 3A Denise, Pang Yu-qing 3A Gan Jun-jun 3A



Knowledgeable

Education, protection, support

Help me to grow

My brilliant teachers.

By Denise, Pang Yu-qing 3A

ODE TO MY SCHOOL School Well-equipped Peaceful, wonderful, grateful Helps me to grow

By

ODE TO MY SCHOOL

LCMS

Fantastic

Fabulous, attractive, gorgeous

Allows me to learn and play

My school

Mandy, Kwok Yin-man 3A

Michelle, Lee Hoi-mei 3A

Rebecca, Tse Tze-yung 3A

By Maya, Chan Yung-yung 3A

Lee Wai-ying 3A

#### **Chapter 9**

Leo, Li Kin-fung 1C



My buddy's name is Tommy. He is thirteen years old. He is not very tall. He always wears a smile on his face. He lives in Mong Kok. I met him when we studied in primary school. Now we are in the same secondary school and study in the same class.

Tommy is a kind and helpful person. He often helps me with my homework. When I have problems, I usually chat with him and ask him to help me solve them. He always has the solution to the problem. I am so thankful to him.

We have the same hobbies and interests. We both like playing basketball and football. We play basketball every Sunday. We have a good time and great fun when we play basketball together.

My Buddy

I like to be Tommy's buddy because I like him very much. I am very lucky to have Tommy as my soul mate.

Standardized Testing: Fair Enough to Identify Elites

Hong Kong is famous for being a shopping and cuisine paradise. Many tourists flock to Hong Kong every year. Yet, the city is also well-known for its examination-oriented education system. Quite a lot of people doubt Hong Kong relies too much on standardized tests, such as HKCEE and HKALE. Here are the arguments for and against standardized testing.

Hong Kong was governed by the British Government for nearly two centuries. HKCEE, HKALE and HKDSE are the terms widely adopted by the public to refer to the standardized assessments. These assessments have been commonly referred to as "public examinations" which are administered and conducted under standardized or controlled conditions that specify where, when, how and how long candidates may respond to the questions set based on the official curriculum guide outlined by the Education Bureau. Some people believe that public examination is a fair system to categorize students according to the grades they obtain from various academic domains. The reason is that all of the participants of the standardized test have not seen the paper before and everyone is given the same period of time to do the preparations. More than that, candidates are not allowed to write their names on the paper. Markers, therefore, can hardly mark or recognize the work of their own students. It is another evidence to prove that the test goes in a just way. In many nations, especially in Europe, public examinations are prevalent to universities or colleges. There is no doubt that European countries used to dominate worldwide in the past decades. If people disbelieve the effectiveness and fairness of standardized test in eliciting pools of talent, they would have criticized the education systems of these well-developed nations where Churchill, Newton and Nobel received education.

Standardized testing seems to be a justified way to examine how much has been learnt and mastered by

#### Dim, Wei Tsz-sum 7A

learners. However, there are parties who hold views against standardized testing. These people claim standardized tests have posed too much stress on teenagers, and life should not just be determined by a one-off assessment. The government always emphasizes the process is far more important than the result. More investments on helping students to develop generic skills and other talents are expected. Students, elite or not, may pay full effort in an attempt to achieve satisfactory performance in the highly competitive one-off standardized testing. In some extreme cases, students who are too stressed out may even commit suicide as a way out from stress. How tragic it is! On the contrary, if students are too relaxed in face of public examinations, the results they gain may be catastrophic and they would have nothing to do except waiting for an opportunity to repeat or become a part of the working population. Time is the most precious asset for teenagers. It is not worth it to spend all year round in preparation for public examinations with other aspects of an all-rounded development neglected.

Having considered the pros and cons, I will say I am a proponent of standardized testing. Although tension, stress and emotional problems may inevitably emerge with

standardized tests, there is no other way which is fairer than having 20,000 candidates do the same paper at the same time. In addition, through striking for excellence in the "war-liked" exam, we could test our patience like running in a marathon. Do think before you have a polar view against public examinations!



### **A Healthy Life**

#### Michelle, Chau Tsz-lam 1A

Nowadays, people are very busy. They need to work or go to school every day and many of us cannot keep a good health. What can we do to have a healthy life? I have some suggestions for you.

First, we must have a healthy eating habit. For example, we should eat more vegetables than meat and we should eat fruits every day. Vegetables and fruits have a lot of vitamins which can keep us healthy, so we must keep it as a habit.

The second way is to do more sports. Some aerobic exercise such as running and playing basketball can enhance blood circulation and keep us healthy. Doing sports can keep us strong and it is fun. Why don't we do more exercise? Let's do exercise for more than 30 minutes every day!

Finally, we must keep a good and positive lifestyle. We should go to bed early and get up early to keep us healthy. We can eat vegetables, salad, and drink a cup of hot milk for breakfast. The most important advice I think is to keep a happy mood. Smiling every day can bring us happiness. Also, we should have a positive mind. Don't be sad and be happy. A big smile can keep our mind and our life healthy.

Following my suggestions, you can have a healthy life!

#### **Internet for Social Interaction, Good or Bad?**

Chan Sik-yui 6B

The Internet is becoming more and more popular in the world. Many people like surfing the net while using computers. Some of them are even the elderly. Besides, there are lots of websites and tools that are used for social interaction through the Internet, like email, Facebook, blog, forum and MSN. When we are enjoying the convenience on the Internet, there are also some arguments saying that the Internet may harm social interaction in the real world. On this issue, what are the pros and cons?

Undoubtedly, there are many advantages of using the Internet for social interaction. First of all, using the Internet is more direct, fast and convenient for our communication with others. MSN, for example, can help us find our friends on the Internet easily. When you have communication with your friends, you can type words or speak by using the microphone installed on the computer. You can also show some photos on the MSN to tell them where you have been, what you have done, how you look like etc. It is indeed much better than using telephones or writing letters.

Second, you can express your own feelings freely on the Internet because you can create an identity but no one knows who you really are on the Internet. In other words, you can 'hide' yourself on the Internet.

Third, the websites and tools about social interaction provide means to gather friends or information. Facebook, which is one of the popular websites, can help us to find and add new friends on the Internet. It is very convenient that you do not have to find a friend in the real world - you can just use Facebook, and choose someone to become your friend! Finally, the Internet can increase productivity in the workplace. If you have to send a report or project to your boss, you can simply send an email to your boss's email address with the work you have done.

However, there are also some disadvantages of using the Internet for social interaction. First, you may have to use too much time to check or connect to the Internet. Moreover, privacy will be exposed to strangers. When you are surfing the net, the IP address of the computer will be exposed and the strangers may hack your computer and steal files from it. Sometimes, the strangers may threaten to expose the files or your privacy if you don't give them money to have the files back. Furthermore, using the Internet for social interaction may deprive you of the real life social interaction as you do not have to face people on the Internet. You may then feel shy before strangers or can't express your own feelings well.

There are a lot of opinions on using the Internet for social interaction. From my point of view, the Internet is very powerful. It has changed people's lifestyle in the world. People can connect with others easily with the help of the Internet, and they can do many things, such as chatting, playing online games, doing homework together and sharing information with each other.

The Internet is now showing its power to the world and it is changing people's life. So no matter you like it or not, you will have to accept the changes about the Internet.





Shmily, the eldest daughter in the lu's family, is a two-year-old toddler, learning to be a Christian. This photo was taken after she had received the blessing from the reverend at Christ Church.

In this photo, Shmily is holding a solemn 'ceremony'. She is closing her eyes, trying to concentrate and put her hand on her sister's head. From her facial expression, we can feel how serious she is. She believes that God will bless her sister, like what the reverend did for her. In the meantime, her one-year-old sister looks very serious too. They trust and have faith in each other. The elder sister is passing the best wishes to her sister, and she receives it with an open mind. Why does Shmily imitate the reverend's act? The answer is simple – She loves her sister and hopes that God will protect her the same way as to her. Shmily's selfless love is very much appreciated.

I think they are very fortunate since they have faith. In the adults' world, it is extremely difficult to find someone that will place one hundred percent trust on others. Spare a minute and ask yourself: How many people do you trust? How many true friends have you got? Why don't we thank God for the chances that we have met our true friends?

Try, please try to learn what love is! Pass your best wishes to all the people that you love and care, just like what baby Shmily is doing! Cheers!

#### My School Hero during the Swine Flu Outbreak

Elizabeth, Keung Tieri-gikwan 4C

Each student should have his/her own school hero. I have got one too! My hero is Mr Chan.

Mr Chan is a janitor in my school. He is different from the others. He is kind, funny and considerate towards students. He never shouts at us. He is a very good helper too. He always helps us to look for our lost properties.

I think Mr Chan is a real hero because even though he might be infected with swine flu himself, he still insists on cleaning our school every day in order to make our campus free of germs. We study in a clean environment because of his hard work. No matter it is a sunny or rainy day, he is always there cleaning for us.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to Mr Chan. Mr Chan, thank you so much for keeping an hygienic campus for us. I really appreciate your hard work!

# BEAUTY BEGINS WITH YOUR HEART

#### Iris, Luk Hiu-yee 6B

"Wow! I've lost five pounds since last month when I began my dieting plan."

"I love chips, but I'd better stay away from it because of my weight."

The above dialogues may seem familiar to you. Surely it has become a common phenomenon in society nowadays that people, especially young girls, are chasing after thinness. "Thinness equals beauty" is widely accepted among people, but it seems that none cares about how much we have to pay for staying "thin". Once came a piece of news that a super model in Europe died due to anorexia. This caused a great deal of discussion in public. It also forces us to think about the potential dangers of such "trend".

There is no doubt that pursuing thinness crazily may be harmful to our health. In order to keep thin, people eat less, or even avoid eating anything. If this habit persists, eventually, people may be reluctant to eat, and may even result in anorexia, a kind of eating disorder. It is believed that anorexia is not only a disorder physically, but also mentally. We all know that vehicles cannot run without fuel while plants cannot produce fruits without sunlight. How can we survive without any food? It is not strange that we even cannot walk when we are hungry, is it? Therefore, eating is essential for us to sustain our lives.

We may become very fragile in front of diseases if we have not taken enough food. Recently, a survey conducted by the University of Hong Kong indicated that anorexics get nervous more easily than others do. They may also find it difficult to focus on their work. What is shown to us is that anorexia also brings a lot of harm to our mental health. In the case we discussed earlier, the European model committed suicide as she could not tolerate the pain that she could not eat according to the blog entries she contributed before her suicide.

It is obvious that the blind pursuit of thinness does harm to our body and mental health. So, what on earth is beauty? I think beauty begins with our heart. Beauty does not exist in the way you look, but the way you perceive yourself. We must be knowledgeable, confident and caring. Inner beauty is true beauty. It is eternal and it would not depreciate in time.

# The days when we were days of the second of

Hey students! Take a look at these photos. Do you know who they are? Make a guess!

> 10. Ms Maggie Li Wr Gary Chan Ws Flora Chan Mr Vincent Lo Wr Kevin Mah Ms Cheryl Ng Brow aus sm Ms Yoong Po-wah il noif sM Ms Cherry Wong

> > 23

# No More Chinglish, please

One menu arouses everyone's attention in town. This is not because of the great food that a restaurant provides or its superb hospitality but because of the Chinglish that appears on its menu. Just how bad could a menu be? Check out the following photo, what does 'Albert Yip' mean?

2

	臺號	人数	經	€Λ		
	美國肥牛 U.S. Cephalomappa		臺灣貢丸 Taiwan's pork balls		河 的	
	鲜 牛 肉		龍 蝦 丸 Lobster pill		米 Rice 粉	
IJ	牛 柏 葉		手打墨魚丸 Mexican hand fighting fish		来 线 Rice Vermicelli	
2	指下青 Pig under the Green		手打魚蛋 Hand fighting fish balls		粉 <sub>Fana</sub> 絲	
	鲜猪爽肚 Fresh Shuang belly pig		手打猪肉丸 Hand pills to fight pork		生 面 Health Surface	
	黄沙猪潤 Huangsha Pig Run	-	九 肚 魚 Nine fish belly		島 Udon 冬	
Ŧ	爽脆猪皮 Crisp pig skin		手打鲜牛丸		出前一丁 A previous small	

Source: www.openrice.com

What should be the proper translation of this kind of food?

4



Source: http://img.photobucket.com

How about this? How would you translate it correctly?

> 心滑 倒 Slip carefully

5

3

Spelling is important, and so is the translation of meanings! Here is a mini-task for you. How would you translate what Stephen Chan said in English?



It is because...true ...false...false... true... thank you.

5. You cannot falsify truth, nor verify lies. 4. Mr J Restaurant, Wet Floor



Study the following photos. What's wrong with them?

Restaurent



CAUTION

小心地清

3. Be careful. / Slippery. cpeesecake. 2. Add \$8 to any combo to get a slice of mango **1. beef tripe** Answer key:

English writing is NOT merely a direct translation of Chinese words! So next time you write, remember to write carefully and properly.

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