

Spotlight



Music is life



LAI CHACK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Music is Life





MUSIC is Life

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 4th edition of *Spotlight*, the annual English magazine of Lai Chack Middle School. Supported by a team of dedicated teaching staff, Lai Chack Middle School is always committed to providing quality education for our students, with a view to nurturing them for a better future in life.

“Music is Life” is the theme of this edition. As the universal language that surpasses all borders, Music, like love, is indiscriminating in nature. This feature of music echoes with our school mission in providing holistic whole-person education for our students regardless of their own unique talents, interests and abilities. Music can be inspiring, liberating and enlightening. It opens the gate towards imagination and creativity, and adds colour to our lives. With music, I hope our students can unleash their potential and enjoy every beautiful moment at Lai Chack Middle School.

In this edition, our editorial team interviewed Ms Hiromi Wada, a local pop singer, who specially came to our school and shared God’s love with us and her life being a singer in the Easter Worship Service. Our team also interviewed Mr Stephen Ip, the Head

of Vocal Division of the Baron School of Music. With his professional expertise, Mr Ip unveiled the interesting episodes he experienced being the music producer for local pop singers. Here, I have to express my sincere gratitude to Ms Wada and Mr Ip for the inspiration they brought us through the interviews. Their words can definitely ignite the passion of our students to strive for excellence in the future.

Finally, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the team of English teachers who create every opportunity for our students to grow and develop in terms of their English language skills, broader academic studies, as well as social and cultural interaction.

By reading *Spotlight*, I hope you will enjoy discovering the wonderful memories our students had at Lai Chack.

Mr. Tsang Yau-shing
Principal
Lai Chack Middle School

Interview with *Ms Hiromi Wada*



Hiromi Wada

Hiromi Wada is a pop singer. On 2nd April, 2012, she came to Lai Chack Middle School to share God's love with us in the Easter Worship Service. She was kind enough to stay after and tell us more about herself.

Reporters:

Miki, Lung Sui-shan 5A1

Cass, Tang Tsz-kwan 5A1

Pal, Deng Yansheng 5A1

Peter, Wang Daheng 5A1

SCHOOL

Hiromi went to a local secondary school. As she is half-Chinese, half-Japanese, everybody thought she was different. The boys teased her and the girls bullied her. "They told me I didn't belong there and asked me to go away. Nobody liked me and I didn't have many friends." Her hatred for school is understandable. "Going to school was like going on a battlefield. For a period of time, I played truancy. This was my school life and it explained why my grades were poor."

FAMILY

Hiromi's parents didn't get along and her mom had no choice but to move to Hong Kong with a little girl. But she was a mature girl and she never brought her sadness and frustration home. "I knew my mom wanted me to be happy. As I didn't want her to worry too much about me, I never told her anything about what happened in school. I pretended to be happy when I was at home." At night, she would wail in her bed, trying hard not to wake her mom up. Hiromi was an ordinary girl in her mom's eyes.

CAREER

Hiromi has always loved singing but she thought she didn't have the pretty face required for a singer. "I wanted to be a dance teacher. I started dancing when I was 11 and became a teaching assistant in a short time. I believed I had potential in this area." At 14, responding to a poster in a supermarket changed her life. "It was about a Putonghua singing contest organized by RTHK. My two friends were very interested in it and they asked me to go with them." Who would have thought that her two friends were eliminated in the preliminary round but she made it all the way to the final? "I couldn't believe it. My legs were shaking and my heart was pumping hard when I was on stage." This nervous girl finally won the first prize.



The thought of doing something else had crossed Hiromi's mind because she thought she was not suitable to be an artist. At that time, she had been looking for a good agent for a month. She couldn't find one and soon started working in a pet shop. Filled with frustration, she never expected the job was a hidden blessing from God. "One day, a customer, who is a model, asked me if I was interested in an advertisement job. I found it strange and wondered if it was a scam. Why didn't she just take the job?" Later, she found out that the model was too thin for the health product being advertised. "God was telling me that I was still valuable through all these little incidents. After 9 months of praying, I finally found a good agent and I was back to the field again."



Some famous record labels are very commercial and the singers have to follow what the boss says. Hiromi doesn't want to be a puppet anymore, so she is now signed to another label, which is not a big company. But she now has the freedom to make the music she likes. It is not easy at all when artists don't have the promotion campaigns and market base that a big record label can offer. She doesn't have any basic salary but gets paid depending on the number of jobs she gets. What she does is pray for work. "The entertainment industry is really complicated. Things don't go logically. Even if you work hard, it doesn't mean you have the chance to go up on stage. There are factors that one can't control. All I do is pray as

nobody can really help me. When I pray, God will open the door for me."

FAITH

Hiromi is a faithful Christian, but she also had her doubts in the beginning. "When I first heard about praying, I thought it was totally pointless. It was like sitting there and doing nothing. But after experiencing God's blessing, I have realized God is good and He is guiding my path." But 'God has not always promised blue skies.' As a faithful Christian, Hiromi still has to tackle a lot of problems, but she never doubts God. She sees these difficulties as opportunities to grow in Him. "God allows hardship in my life. If I had been successful with my career, I would have been very arrogant. Because I have experienced pain before, I understand that it hurts a lot to be ignored when you are feeling down." That's why when she sees someone in sorrow now, she shares with them her warmest care.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO LAI CHACK STUDENTS

God does not grant her any wealth, but God's grace makes her happier than many billionaires. The interview ended recalling Hiromi's sincere and heartfelt encouragement to Lai Chack students, "Everything is in God's hands. We cannot control what happens in life and we are conceited if we think we can grasp hold of our lives with our own wisdom. If you are undergoing any downs in life, just pray."





Interview with Mr Steven Ip

– *Head of Vocal Division,
Baron School of Music*

Reporters:	
Pluto, Tang Tsz-yim	3A
Toby, Yu Wing-yi	3A
Carol, Zhou Jia-hua	3A
Eric, Au Kit-hung	3A
Wai, Chan Yuk-wai	3A
Cammi, Tang Tsz-tan	3A
Leo, Tao Li-ming	3A
Chloe, To Chui-yi	5A2
Arrienne, Si Ka-wai	5A2
Zim, Kwan Pui-sim	5A2
Kitto, Lam Pik-shan	5A2

Echoing the theme of this year, “Music is Life”, we were honoured to have an interview with Mr Steven Ip Fu Sheng, the Head of Vocal Division of Baron School of Music, on 15th June, 2012 and it was extremely kind of Mr Ip to allow our editorial team members to visit his studio in Mong Kok. Being a vocal teacher and a vocal director of many popular artists, like Kelly Chen, Aaron Kwok and Kay Tse, Mr Ip has made enormous contributions to the Hong Kong music industry. Being a vocal tutor of a number of Christian music organisations such as Frontline and Believers and a guest tutor in various church choirs, Mr Ip has devoted himself to both music and his religion. The interview was inspiring and our team has learnt a lot from his experiences.



We know that you have been living in the United States for a long time. We wonder how life in the USA was like. Did you have a great time there?

I came back to Hong Kong after 4 June in 1989 and have been here for more than 20 years. The first part of my life was in the US back in 1972. None of you were born at that time, right? I finished primary school in Hong Kong and my whole family moved to San Francisco. I was eleven and I started junior high school there. It was the happiest time for me. I think most Chinese parents are very protective in Hong Kong and so were mine. As I recall the primary school years of my life in Hong Kong, I wasn't allowed to go out, so when I went to the US, all of a sudden, I had lots of freedom. One main reason was that my parents were too busy learning English or getting used to their new jobs, etc. I had to go to school by myself but in Hong Kong, I took school buses. After school, I joined swimming and soccer teams and hung out with my friends at MacDonalds.

To answer your question, actually, I didn't encounter any problem. Some of you may wonder whether there was culture shock when I first arrived. San Francisco has the



largest proportion of Chinese immigrants, although not a lot of them were from China or from Hong Kong in 1972. In San Francisco, 90% of them were Chinese. As I recall, actually, 95% of the students in my junior high school and high school were Chinese but most of them were already the second generation. We called them ABC (American Born Chinese). They didn't really speak Cantonese. They spoke different dialects, like Taishanese and Siyi dialect. When I first arrived there, all these Chinese faces calmed me down. It wasn't much different from my life in Hong Kong and I enjoyed it.

How did you learn English when you were studying in Hong Kong and what are your keys to success in learning English?

When I was in Hong Kong, I went to St. Francis of Assisi's English Primary School and I learnt all the phonetic symbols there, so I could pronounce the words even though I might not have understood them at that time. That's why I had less difficulty when I first arrived in San Francisco. Although I did not understand everything completely, teachers there were very helpful. When they knew that I didn't understand, they explained it to me. As for your situation, I think that's good for your school to have this kind of programme so that you can at least talk to each other, your teacher and the interviewee in English.

One of my keys to success is that within my own living environment, I try my best to speak English as much as possible. There are some requirements and one of them is that you should never be shy. I have a son, three and a half years old, who just started talking last year. I think he has got a sense of what English is. When he sees a westerner, he just starts talking or mumbling, so just don't be shy. Also, when

you are watching movies and TV, don't look at the subtitles. However, if you buy a DVD, you can turn it off and replay the part you don't understand.

Which language do you usually use to talk to your son, English or Cantonese?

My wife and I had a plan once that she would talk to him in Cantonese and I would speak in English but I ended up speaking Cantonese. I am not worried and this is fine for me because whenever he goes to bed, we will first sit down and interact in English. This is because he will be going to different kindergartens for an interview and most of the interviews are in English.

We know that you have been studying Vocal music in Dick Grove School of Music in the US. What is the most impressive experience you had in the school?

I think my school is the best school. Michael Jackson was in my school. Some locals like *Joseph Koo Kar-Fai*, a very famous Hong Kong conductor and song writer who wrote the song "The Bund of Shanghai" (Sheung Hoi Tan), and *Peter Kam Pui-Tat* also studied in my school.

I remember there was a time when Peter Kam had to hand in a musical arrangement. The assignment was given on Monday and he had to finish it by Friday. Since all the students in the programme would have 15 minutes to present their songs on stage, Peter was arranging a medley and had to find a vocalist to sing it, so he came to me at nine o'clock in the morning on Friday.

There are two big studios in our school where the students were not just arranging music for a band but also for an orchestra. We arrived and there had already been a full orchestra and they were all students, too. Our school also hired professional musicians to play students' work. We actually conducted a musical arrangement that was played by professional musicians and everything was done by live recording. That's really impressive and memorable.

Now you have returned to Hong Kong and are the Head of Vocal Division of Baron School of Music. As a vocal teacher, could you share with us anything interesting about your job?

A vocal teacher is a teacher. The teacher has his/her ups and downs. I have been teaching for over 20 years. I mainly work on a one-to-one basis or introductory work. I also work with choirs and accapella groups. When our principal, Ronald, invited me to join Baron, I hesitated because I had never taught classes before and I didn't really like doing that. I



believe the best instruction is one-to-one in vocal teaching but, anyway, because he (the principal) had invited all of our friends in the industry to help, I started teaching in Baron and I have been teaching here for 6 years now.

I find myself quite enjoying structuring and teaching vocal courses. It is because when I usually teach one-to-one, students are first sorted out through the audition process or are referred to us by record companies or agents. But in the school situation, everybody can join. For me, it's kind of fun. I can teach all walks of life, from students to retirees or even graduates from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. I have learnt a lot from different students too; for example, the different techniques they use or the different problems they have.

It is not easy to become a super star on stage. What qualities and skills are needed to become a professional vocalist?

All the record companies will tell you that they are constantly looking for talent and they will tell you that they are always looking for the next super star even though there are already so many artists. Whenever we are having an interview or audition or whenever the record company is looking for artists, they will first look for a personality which has the passion and eagerness to be a star. It's because the basic function of a "star" is to shine. They should be able to draw people's attention. A person with passion and eagerness tends to be more likely to succeed and will learn faster.

Many of your students are very successful in their career, like Kay Tse, Tony Leung and Kelly Chen. What do you think about your students?

For those who are professional, they are in the spotlight because they really want it and one big difference between them and most students, at least in my class in Baron, is that they are shy but the stars aren't. There are many cases in which record companies sign up an artist whose personality is not very fit for this kind of job



and, actually, face big challenge. They have a very difficult time at opening themselves up. You really have to be willing to show off if you want to be a star.

We know that you are an expert in music production too. You were the vocal director for many local singers, like Jo Koo and Aaron Kwok. Could you share with us anything interesting about that?

Yes. The office of *Jo Koo Cho-lam* and *Shine's* manager and agent is still located downstairs in the same building as my studio here. Going back to the time I worked with Aaron Kwok, I never taught him but I produced some of his songs. I recall the first time I worked with him in the studio. He had been one of the "four kings of pop" already. The first time I worked with him, we started at around 7:30 at night. We tried to finish recording the vocal part in one session because he was so busy. He didn't have time to come back again. The session ended at around 2 in the morning and we, including myself, Aaron and the engineer, were all tired.

We had a good session that night as we finished 2 songs. When Aaron came out from the recording room at the end of the session, we all sat down in the control room and listened to the recording again and I thought the production was pretty good. We did our best. It was not perfect but that was fine because there are usually vocal editing procedures for post-production. Sometimes, the original version would be a bit different from the one that you buy nowadays. It's the post-production that helps make the product perfect as anybody can make mistakes.

I thought that the production was fine but Aaron said, "I think I could do better. After listening to the original recording, now I know how I should sing the song." What he actually meant was, "I am going to do it again." It was 2:30 in the morning and I wanted to go home. I was tired but he said, "No, no, no, Steven. Let me try again." Being the king, he just wouldn't listen to you. He just did things in his own way, although his voice was tired. I did three songs with him and I found that for him, it was like a ritual. Every artist has his/her own style and some may be a little weird.

What are the differences between the role of a music producer and the role of a vocal teacher?



As a vocal teacher, I teach, inspire and nurture but a producer is like a movie director. He has to work with the budget, to hire the whole cast, including the song writer, the lyricist, the music arranger and the musician and his/her most important duty is to record with the vocalist in the studio. As a vocal producer, I work with the vocalist.

The main difference is that music production is a one-off thing and I try to help the artist to capture the moment. For example, if the vocalists' vocal technique is not sufficient, I have to work with them a bit by asking whether they can sing more in tune or whether they can give me more emotion. An experienced producer can help the artist to reflect on the performance whereas a vocal teacher gives students more time to grow and to correct themselves.

How did you become a Christian?

Actually, my family members are Catholic so I am the only Christian in my family. It is a long story. I do respect my family but I found God in my own way. I found that I could have a personal relationship with God, something I hadn't realized when I was a Catholic. I became a pious Christian and I discovered music through that.

You are one of the founding members of a Christian music foundation, the Christian Artist Summit Limited (CAS), as well as the vocal director of a few Christian music groups. What made you devote so much time to these programmes and organizations?

Many people don't really know about the first part of my life. I had a degree in Hotel Management in the USA. It was also my first career and I actually started music quite late except that music had always been with me. After I had worked in my first career of middle management in a major hotel for 5 years, I thought it was time for me to change and do something that I had a passion for. I needed a reason for doing that and at that time, there were many music camps in the United States every year. I came across one of them which was one of the biggest Christian music camps in the States. I was inspired or you may say, I had a calling. The calling was that it's time to serve Him and I asked myself what I could do. His voice in me said, "Maybe music". At that moment, I started planning to study music. I switched to the music industry because I wanted to use music to serve God and I enjoyed doing it too.

How did all these help you with your life?

Life? You guys are still very young, right? When people start realizing that they are older... How do people realize that? They don't really think like "Oh, next year, I will be old." We don't plan for that. It just takes one special moment and we then realize that we are old. In just one moment, I realized that I had been living in this world for a long time and I have been reflecting back over my life. I think everything so far is so good. I am having fun and at least, I have two different life experiences: one life in San Francisco with a different career

and here I am now, twenty years later here in Hong Kong, doing music which I am not going to give up.

Last night in my class, my students and I were just talking about music as a universal language. I believe that too. I have taught many students. Many of them are locals but I have also taught some Japanese even though they don't know one word of English nor one word of Chinese. And I don't speak Japanese either. With due respect to different professions, music always reinvents itself and so do musicians. People keep writing new stuff and I constantly get inspired. I am going to watch *Annie*, a Broadway musical, tonight. When it comes to performances or musicals, I am like a kid. Music is always rewriting me in some sense.

We found that all you are doing now is related to music. What is so interesting and fascinating about music?

When my students want to give up music, I always ask them the same question, "What is music to you?" People ask me every year and I have different answers every year because a life has its ups and downs and we all grow from that. As I have mentioned, music has the ability and magic to reinvent itself so people like us who do music will experience that.

To me, music comes in many forms and provides many answers and one for me is that music gives me the courage to express myself. Last night in my class, one of the students shared a song and she was kind of irritated that she had to explain everything to everybody. Music is so simple. It's just a song that expresses your feelings. Music brings up the real you deep down inside. You may put a face but when it comes to music, you take it off. Music really brings out the real you.



Annie is a Broadway musical based upon the popular Harold Gray comic strip *Little Orphan Annie*, with music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin, and the book by Thomas Meehan. The original Broadway production opened in 1977 and ran for nearly six years. It spawned numerous productions in many countries, as well as national tours, and won the Tony Award for Best Musical. The musical's songs "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard-Knock Life" are among its most popular musical numbers.

As such a successful individual, what were your childhood dreams?

I had many dreams and music was always one of them. Music gives me the freedom and courage to express myself. Music constantly demands me to reinvent, to refresh, to rewrite life and to analyze it. Music reminds or teaches me to be humble and to be consistent.

What qualities and skills do you think are important for teenagers to become successful individuals?

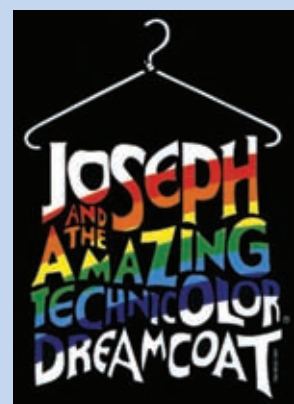
I will quote the famous saying from Steve Jobs, 'Stay hungry and stay foolish'. Many people are inspired by that and me too. Many people take many years to realize that they have full potential to fulfill their dreams. I always share with my students that we have to enjoy the moment because the moment is gone in a twinkle. The moment could be good or bad but when you look back, you will find that you learned something from that. I think the process is very important.

What would you like to say to all the Lai Chack students?

Follow your dreams just like a song from the musical... **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, keep dreaming. When Joseph, a dreamer, heard other characters say, "I don't have any dream", his song says, "any dream will do". You may say I don't know what I want in life. Then, find something you like and see how it leads you. Just dream or you will never know what will happen next. Take some of my students for example. They say that they want to take up music as a career but do they really know music? First, they have to equip themselves. Then, they may ask if they will be able to secure a job if they continue their studies. You don't know the answer if you don't try. Just don't give up your dream but follow it wherever it takes you.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical with lyrics by Tim Rice. The story is based on the "coat of many colors", the story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis.

It was first presented as a 15-minute pop cantata in London in 1968, recorded as a concept album in 1969 and opened on Broadway in 1982. The show has no spoken dialogue. It is completely sung-through. According to the Really Useful Group, by 2008 more than 20,000 schools and amateur theatre groups had successfully produced it.



Reporters

Kitty, Tang Nga-tan 4A2

Yan, Chan Po-yan 4A2

Interview with Ms Emily Ho

– A New Music Teacher



Ms Ho, what do you like about your job as a teacher?

I enjoy teaching for many reasons. I like to see students learning new things and growing up to be productive human beings. I would say the best thing about teaching is the moment when your students make some progress, whether it is a great leap forward or just a little step ahead. I feel satisfied whenever I see my students improve both academically and in their behaviour.

Do you like travelling? Which country do you like best?

I enjoy travelling a lot! My favourite destination would be Brisbane in Australia. It is a really amazing place with great people and a nice natural landscape. During October, you might see a “purple sea” everywhere as purple flowers will be blooming on a kind of tree called the Jacaranda. They’re absolutely beautiful and stunning.

What is your favourite movie?

I guess it would be a French movie called *Les Choristes*. It’s about how a music teacher inspires some troubled boys in a boarding school located in the French countryside. Some of you might have watched it, as I have shown it in class before.

What is the most important thing in your life?

I love to eat. Having good food always makes me happy. I am a huge fan of potatoes in particular. Any dish with potatoes will be my top choice. I just love the taste and the texture of this amazing food. I can’t imagine how life would be if I couldn’t eat potatoes anymore.

If you were given a special power, what would you want that to be?

I wish I could have two mouths and two voices, so that I could sing while I’m speaking. Life would be much more fun if it were filled with beautiful melodies. Not only that, I could also sing a duet all by myself, wouldn’t that sound great?

Interview with Mr Chui Ka Kit

– A New Physics Teacher



Reporters:

Megan, Hong Mei 1B

Winkie, Yang Zhonglian 1B

Jeremie, Lo 1B

Jacky, Wong Sai-kit 1B

Name: Chui Ka Kit

Horoscope: Capricorn

Favourite Types of Movies: Suspense, Thrillers and Mystery

Sex: Male

Place of Birth: Hong Kong

Favourite Songs: All the songs by Eason Chan

Age: 23

Favourite Sports: Soccer

Favourite Food: Japanese food, especially sushi

Reasons for Becoming a Teacher

There are various reasons why Mr. Chui wants to become a teacher. One of them is that he really enjoys getting along with young people, teenagers in particular. He believes that young minds have the greatest potential and ideas which are yet to be explored and unleashed. He has chosen to be a Science and Physics teacher due to his love for the subjects himself. "Science is vital for us to understand what's going on around us," Mr. Chui added. He hopes to help his students develop their interest in Science through different learning activities.

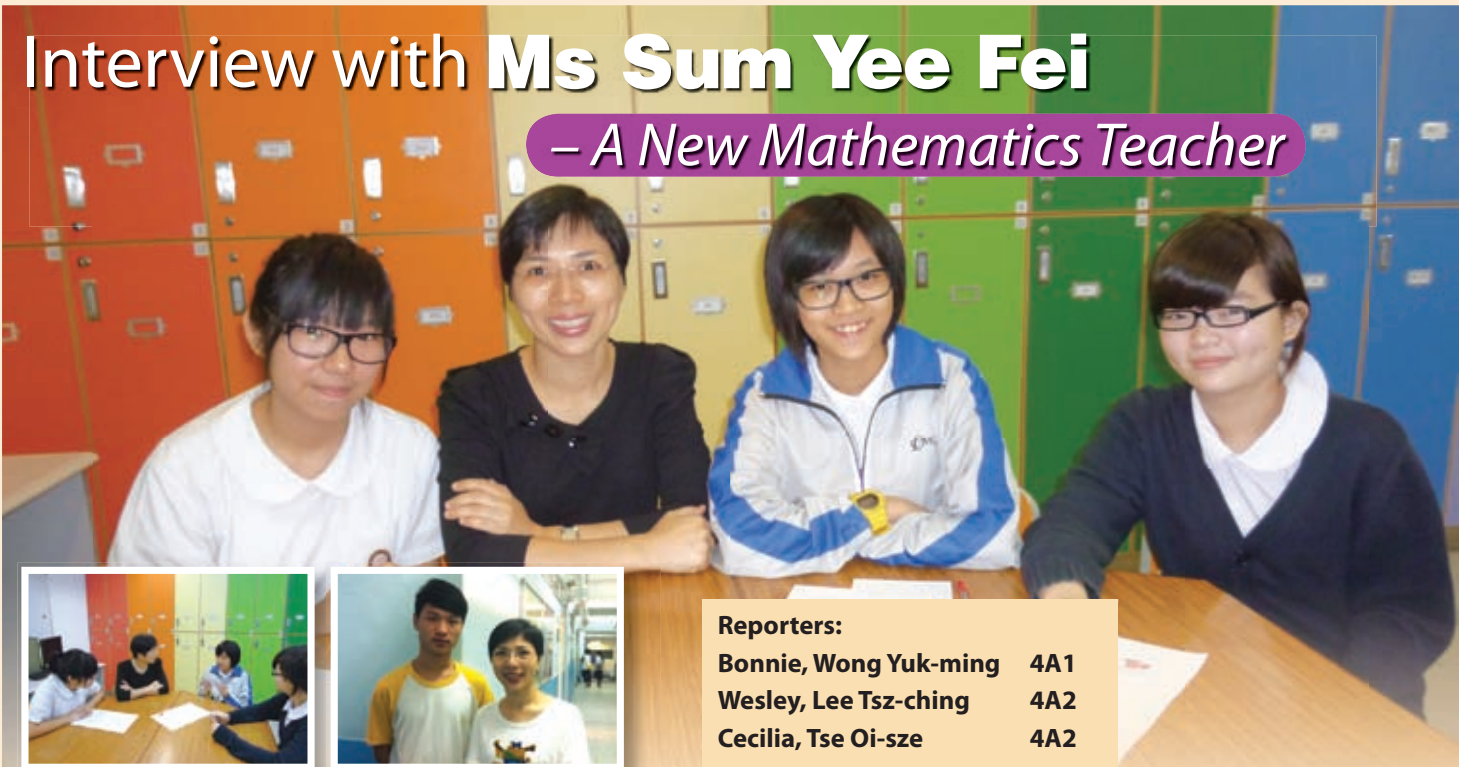
His most memorable moment in Lai Chack

Looking back over the past few months, Mr. Chui has enjoyed every moment with his students. In particular, he has been most impressed by students' enthusiasm and achievements on the sports day. He remembered how the students cheered with excitement while all the sportsmen were giving their best effort in the events. Participating in the Teacher-Student racing game was also a precious and memorable experience for him.



Interview with Ms Sum Yee Fei

– A New Mathematics Teacher



Reporters:

Bonnie, Wong Yuk-ming	4A1
Wesley, Lee Tsz-ching	4A2
Cecilia, Tse Oi-size	4A2

Miss Sum, why did you choose to be a teacher?

I chose to be a teacher as I really enjoy teaching. Teaching can be very rewarding and it also brings great satisfaction to me. Some people say a teacher is like the engineer of human souls as he guides his students in their spiritual growth. This reminds me of the students' need for spiritual guidance. Apart from imparting knowledge, I also aspire to help my students grow to become compassionate and grateful individuals.

What is the most important thing in your life?

I would say religion is the most important thing in my life. Getting to know and follow Jesus has completely changed my life. I always feel blessed to have a close relationship with God. My religion and faith provide me with a conscience and direction of how to live my life in a fulfilling way.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy outdoor activities like having a picnic with my family in the countryside and going hiking. These activities allow me to get in touch with nature and have fun. I am always fascinated by the beautiful scenery in the natural environment. Besides, one of my favourite sports is squash. I love playing squash with my friends in my free time. During long holidays, I usually go on a vacation with my family. I think Malaysia is one of the best destinations for travelling as you can try all kinds of water sports there. It is also famous for its sandy beaches and delicious food.

What is your dream?

My dream is very simple --- to be a good teacher. My primary goal is to contribute my best effort and experience to help my students develop positive values and right attitudes of learning. I believe that every student can succeed with the right instruction in the right environment. Therefore, I hope to be the one who can guide them on the right path.

October



I've got a lot of tests these days and am a bit worried about the results. Can I pass all of them?



Don't worry too much, I think you can pass. I will have much pressure since I have many extra classes once I start my S6 study.



Almost all S6 students in Hong Kong have tons of extra classes. Let's get used to them together!

September



School starts again! We need to work very hard!



Sure, we must work hard or we'll regret it.



Enjoy our last year in Lai Chack.



Ready

K

May



How do you prepare for your speaking exam? I'm talking to my friends in English when we meet.



My classmates and I have formed a group and we have done some speaking practice. Also I'm trying to speak English every day.



I've been trying so hard to get used to speaking in English!



OUR WAY
H K D

With the adoption of the new academic structure, 71,762* secondary six students will sit for the first Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination after completing their three-year senior education in 2012. To perform well in this significant examination, all candidates prepare themselves in various ways such as going

April



All Chinese and English written exams are over. Let's take a break!



No way! We still have a long way to go.



Take a short break and start doing revision again. Everybody, cheer up!

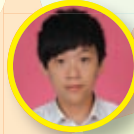
H

G

March



Here comes the last day. I will miss my classmates and teachers so much. Oh no! The HKDSE exam is approaching day by day, I'm so nervous now!



Practice makes perfect. Do more past papers.



Time flies! Anyway, let's try our very best to prepare for it.

E

November



There're lots of things I need to study for the mock exam, but I don't know which subject I should study first, Can anyone give me advice?



Let's form a study group and we can study together.



You should identify your own weakness first.

December



Our mock exam is over! Yet we still need to prepare for another mock exam.



My holidays are quite fruitful because they are filled up with revision. What a meaningful life! Hey buddies, cheer up!!!

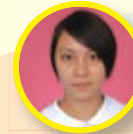


Let's work hard together, the better and earlier we prepare for the exam, the better result we'll achieve.

TOWARDS S E

to self-study rooms or attending tutorial classes, etc. Kobe, Yip Lai-man (6A2), Elizabeth, Keung Tieri Gikwan (6C), Emil, Yiu Chiu-cham (6C) and Yu Chinam (6C) are examples of those who will take part in such a vital task this year. Let's see how they are preparing for the first HKDSE examination.

January



Another mock exam is done! Happy new year everyone!



We can take a short break and have some fun finally!!



Relaxation is important, but don't forget to study for the HKDSE exam at Chinese New Year.

February



We still have one month to study in school. All my classmates, work hard!



Oh! I am starting to miss all of my classmates and teachers.



Let's support each other!

Educational Action Research Projects:



Promoting New Literacies in School (2009-2010)

Promoting New Literacies in Hong Kong Schools is the school-based professional development project we joined from 2009-2010. It was conducted by a research team from the Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong. The project was designed to explore the potential of digital, mobile and popular cultural literacies to enrich English language learning and teaching in Hong Kong secondary schools. It also aimed to enable English teachers to infuse these “new literacies” into the English language curriculum, and to disseminate good practices in new literacies-infused English language teaching and learning to the wider Hong Kong educational community.

Our school implemented the action research project in three junior classes. We decided to introduce elements of new literacies in the teaching to stimulate students’ interest in language learning and to help them develop their critical thinking skills and creativity.

Recently, we have received the report of this action research from the University of Hong Kong that outlined the major findings and recommendations. A DVD showcasing the snapshots and episodes has been distributed school-wide in Hong Kong. It has been very encouraging for our teaching team to know that our teachers’ dedication has been the major contributing factor to the overall success of the project. With a better understanding of our strengths, successes and students’ learning performances, it is our hope that students will enjoy learning through the incorporation of the new literacies approach into English language learning and teaching.



Putting theory into Practice

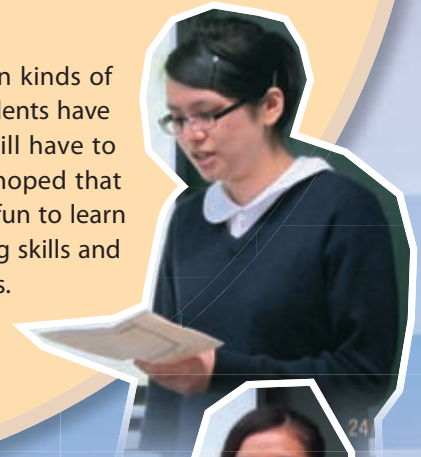


Learning English Through Pop Culture? Let's Try it! (2011 – 2013)

What do you get when you mix a Ph.D from HKU, a very busy Research Assistant, a young and energetic classic English teacher and a fat NET from the USA? You get a team of very *different people working hard together to teach English in a creative way at LCMS.*

Ms. Cheryl Ng and Mr. Cary Yurk, English teachers for S5A1 are developing “*Learning English through Popular Culture*” modules under the supervision of Dr. Jasmine Luk. Her Research Assistant, Ms. Betty Hui, is responsible for data collection and recording during all sessions. This year, Ms. Ng and Mr. Yurk developed a Halloween module helping students to express their understanding of the cultural similarities and differences between Halloween and the Chinese Hungry Ghost Festival. Students were very excited to put on Halloween skits in English!

At the moment, the 5A1 class is learning how visual media uses certain kinds of language and images to promote or sell a product or service. The students have to analyze the different forms of communication and in the end will have to produce advertisements to promote something in English. It is hoped that through this approach, our students will find it interesting and fun to learn English. In addition, they are developing their critical thinking skills and using them in the analysis of different genres of media texts.




English at Lai Chack Middle School - A Kaleidoscope of Change

This year, LCMS has not only kept a high profile of using English, it has opened up new doors of opportunity. Our students have been getting more exposure to a practical use of English. Mr. Cary D. Yurk, new NET, has been focusing on students speaking more English. Lunchtime table talks where students can come and informally chat in English are almost daily. More than 50 students have taken advantage of this daily English lunch chat, a positive change indeed!

Furthermore, Mr. Yurk, in the role of *Hairy Cary*; along with his sidekick, the *Quacker*, have been responsible for *English Channel*, a short broadcast talk provided for students every Thursday. The overall theme for this year has been *How to be a Responsible Person*. Hairy Cary has interviewed 6 students from Forms 1, 3 and 5 as well. More student participation in English Channel is another positive change.

The capable team of our school's English Department has also been involved in sponsoring three special *English Days*, enhancing our efforts of implementing English across the curriculum. The LCMS English Society has also been busy. The student committee has organized many events to offer students more opportunities to use English in a relaxed atmosphere.

Yes, this year has indeed been a kaleidoscope of change in how English has been perceived and used at our school. The bottom line is to motivate and encourage the use of English by our students. We have all felt that positive change is happening and will continue to happen in the future.



DRAMA ALADDIN AND THE MAGIC LAMP





Mixed Voice Choral Speaking



Solo-Verse Speaking

SPEECH FESTIVAL



Becky, Tang Man-ting
4A1 2nd Prize



Annie, Lam On-ni
2A 3rd Prize



Agnes, Wong Siu-tung
5A2 2nd Prize



Solo-Verse Speaking

READING & WRITING WORKSHOP





ENGLISH WEEK





ENGLISH DAY





ENGLISH NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE: ENGLISH

As a means to promote English as the medium of instruction this year, Lai Chack Middle School has implemented the EAC program in order to extend the use of English across different subjects. In order to achieve this, English teachers have liaised with other subject teachers to think of possibilities and solutions to increase students' comprehension of subject matter as it is articulated through English.

Our goal was to use English as the medium of instruction to replicate different subjects. This included F.1 Mathematics, F.2 Integrated Science and F.3 Humanities. As English teachers, we designed a tailor-made curriculum that was exam-based and organized to suit students' ability to understand subject-based knowledge better through a set of generic tasks in English. By working together, we were able to think of multiple ways to enhance students' content knowledge in English and help them apply it to everyday life.

F1. Mathematics

Interview with Ms. Sum Yee Fei

How did the subjects benefit each other?

Group 1 Math class learnt Math in English, and familiar terms were taught during the lessons and the students felt that the process of learning was mutually beneficial to both subjects.

How did you use English to arouse students' interest in Math?

In our lesson, we used authentic situations such as examples in calculating discount prices and tipping practice to stimulate students' interest.

F2. Integrated Science

Interview with Mr. Ronald To

How would you grade the overall performance of the students in the class and their understanding



ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

of the subject matter in the classroom?

I think the aims of the two modules are quite different. In an English-based module, students are expected to communicate scientific ideas and science-related issues effectively in English. But in the original science module, students are expected to develop interest in our natural world and develop skills for making scientific enquiries.

What are the major differences of the English-based module and your original module?

Even though students do not have enough experience in learning science by using English as the medium, they participated actively during the lesson and showed their interest in the subject matter. Their motivation was strong. They were willing to help teachers to demonstrate experiments related to acids and bases. Students were fascinated with unexpected chemical changes. From the answers given by the students, they understood the scientific concepts very well.

F3. Humanities

Interview with Ms. Chow Pui Yee

How did the EAC project facilitate our students' learning?

It was good that the EAC project was able to focus on multiple directions. Students were able to evaluate problems through logic and critical thinking. The topics were chosen to cater to students' needs and interest. Students were willing to share ideas together.

How did our students respond to the materials that we made?

Students' improvement was evident. They were able to use the information and relate it to their own lives. Even though the subject matter in the first semester was difficult, it was simplified to easily trigger students' thinking. Students were willing to give their own opinions and participated actively.

Students' Writing

Vivian, Sun-xi 1A
 Michael, Lam Ching-hoi 1A
 Ronald, So Sze-ho 1A
 Dan, Tang Ho-lan 1A

A report on the food in the tuck shop

Introduction

Our classmates like to buy snacks from the tuck shop so much, so we conducted a survey to find out what they think about the food. We distributed questionnaires to 18 classmates in 1A. This report presents the findings, conclusion and recommendations from the survey.

Findings

The survey found that 72% of the interviewees always went to the tuck shop to buy food. More than half of the respondents said that chicken wings were their favourite food in the tuck shop. Meanwhile, 22% of the interviewees liked potato chips the most and 11% of them preferred candies.

The findings indicate that more than 60% of the interviewees always bought deep-fried food from the tuck shop. When asked which snack they hated the most, 50% of the interviewees chose chicken wings. 14% of the respondents hated sandwiches the most and nobody hated potato chips.

Conclusion and recommendations

Many of our classmates always go to the tuck shop to buy food. More than half of them like to buy deep-fried food such as chicken wings and potato chips. However, some of the students hate chicken wings because they think the food is not healthy enough. Therefore, we suggest the tuck shop sell marinated chicken wings instead of deep-fried chicken wings. In addition, our school should encourage students to form a healthy eating habit by having fresh fruits and vegetables every day.



Fun ways to improve English

Annie, Lam On-ni 2A

English is an important subject. We should study it hard since it is one of the main languages in the world.

For me, I think the fastest and the most interesting way to learn English is reading English books that are funny. It is because we can learn different terms and ideas through books. I think *Hunger Games* is a good and exciting book to read.

Second, you can improve your speaking skills by watching English movies as you can listen to a variety of accents. I think *Titanic* is a well-scripted movie. It also helps us learn more about history and we can learn English as well.

Finally, I hope everyone can learn English in a fun and comfortable way!



you

Euthanasia

- the patient's choice

Harry, Guo Xiao-wei 5A1

He has been lying in the ward for 3 months. Severe cancer brings him unbearable pain every day. It is like being in hell every day. His family is wealthy and they can buy the most expensive medicine to keep him alive. Yet, his disease cannot be cured. If he can opt for his own destiny, he'd rather end his life, but this act is illegal. He is definitely not the only one who wants to be mercifully killed.

These days, the issue of euthanasia has brought a contentious discussion. Views on the topic vary greatly. The most apparent justification for euthanasia to be made legal is that it can bring patients relief. As we know, terminal cancer or other serious diseases can cause a lot of pain. Though there is only a slight chance for most of the diseases to be cured, patients have to keep suffering until they recover from the illness or pass away. Inevitably, the period could be very long, so it is hard to imagine the inestimable pain that patients have to undergo while they are walking on a road with no end in sight. Only after a long time does the end finally come. Under these circumstances, the pain seems to be unnecessary because it causes patients more mental and physical torture. As a result, euthanasia is a reasonably good measure for the terminally ill.

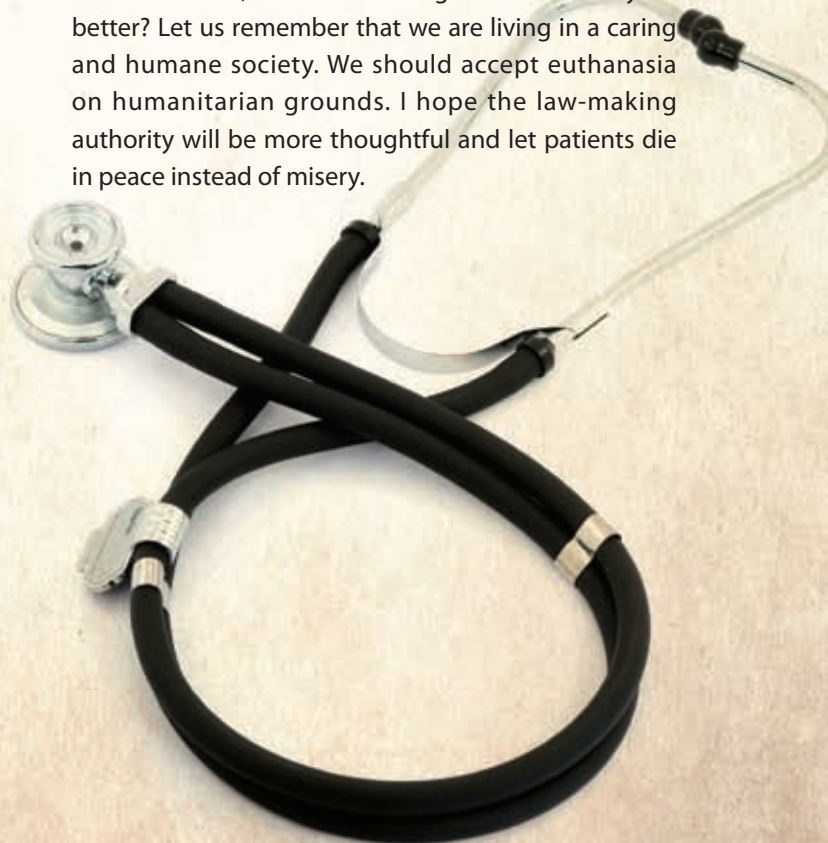
Yet, legalizing euthanasia is by no means encouraging people to give up hope when they have got a nearly incurable disease. This way out is only suitable for patients in desperate circumstances when death outweighs other options for them. Moreover, euthanasia should not be undergone without the patient and his family's consent. Therefore, the doctor who provides patients with this radical treatment should not have to take responsibility for the termination of life.

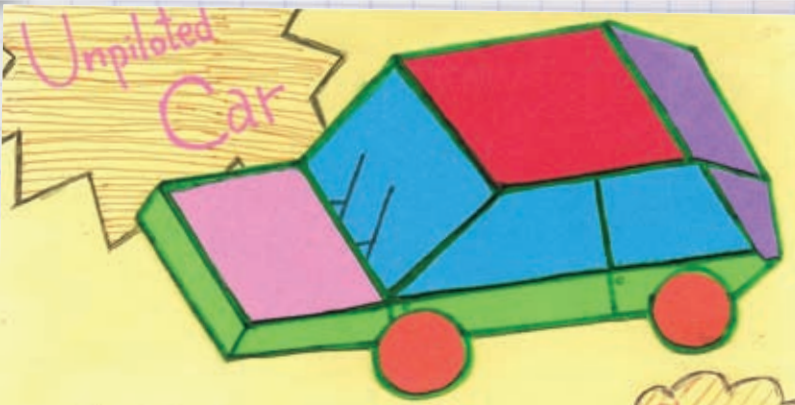
Nonetheless, critics strongly oppose the proposition, thinking that euthanasia is equal to murder and deny the morality of euthanasia. However, there are essential differences between murder and euthanasia. Murder is an act of killing another person deliberately. In contrast, euthanasia is mercy killing with the help of

doctors based on the patients' own accord. Obviously, the latter is a voluntary practice of the patients and the former is a crime. So how would these two distinctly different acts be equal to each other?

Apart from the above, people also believe that euthanasia is improper and immoral. If helping others to relieve pain is improper and immoral, what is the proper and moral thing to do? Does that mean seeing people lying on bed suffering from unnecessary pain is ethical and the right thing to do? Of course not! We should put ourselves in their shoes. If you were in their position, would you like to wait for death while suffering from extreme pain? I believe the answer is negative. We should respect other's freedom of choice and be more considerate.

Let us not forget that every decision also has its drawbacks. While it is true that legalizing euthanasia may be immoral as it is about ending one's life, should we turn a blind eye to those patients and watch them suffer every day on their sickbed until they go to heaven or hell, where the living conditions may be better? Let us remember that we are living in a caring and humane society. We should accept euthanasia on humanitarian grounds. I hope the law-making authority will be more thoughtful and let patients die in peace instead of misery.





Danielle, Chung Ching-yi 3A

My invention is an unpiloted car. It's called "Fantastic One". It belongs to the field of transportation. The inventors are Danielle Chung, Carol Chou and Carmen Lam. It costs a little bit expensive. It costs \$1000,000. The materials are Gps, steel, a computer and solar panels.

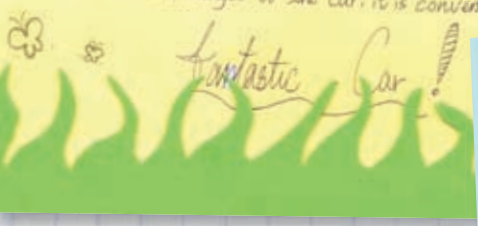
Chung Ching-yi
3A 6

"Fantastic One" is really fantastic. It works just like its name. It has many functions. There's a bed in the car, so if you are tired when you are traveling, you can sleep in the car and you don't need to find a hotel so that you can save money. It also has a kitchen.

If you are hungry, you can cook in the car!! It uses solar energy to cook. There is also a bathroom. You can wash yourself here.

Maybe you will ask me how the car is piloted? There is a computer that controls the car. You can set your destination first. Then, the computer will control the car with the Gps.

The car would benefit people who love traveling a lot. For the advantages of the car, it is convenient. It's really a



Cammi, Tang Tsz-tang 3A

My invention. Translate highlighter



The name of this invention is called 'translate highlighter'. It is the latest product of high technology in the 21st century.

This 'translate highlighter' was invented by me. It costs about \$300 to produce one. It is made of plastic and there is a screen on the back and a highlighter on the other side. There are seven colours provided, such as red, yellow, pink, purple and blue. You can choose what you like. All are very colorful and attractive. In the middle, there are some decorations, for example, some flowers or some English letters.

The 'translate highlighter' has different usages and functions. First of all, you can use it to highlight the important notes. Second, while you are reading an article and come across some words that you don't know, you can highlight it and the pen will translate it and show the Chinese meaning on the screen automatically. It's amazing, right! Afterwards, you will not be afraid of the unknown words! Because of this pen, I think many people would be benefited, like elderly people who love to read English newspaper, or the students as they don't need to buy an expensive translator anymore. Now, just spend several hundred dollars, we can get it!

The new product improves our life quality and reading speed. It is really a good invention, isn't it?

Psychological Test

What does your sleeping position say about your personality?

According to a report from psychologists, the sleeping posture of human beings is closely related to their psychological state and personality. It is not unusual in the way that when we sleep, all our thoughts and emotions are running through our mind.

Below are some common sleeping positions. Find yours and see what it says about you.



A Thinker

Lying sideways with knees close to chest



B Yearner

Sideways with arms/legs up front



C Freefaller

Lying on your stomach with your head turned to one side



D Soldier

Lying on your back with both arms pinned to your sides



E Starfish

Lying on your back with arms and legs outstretched



F Stargazer

Lying on your back with both arms up around the pillow

Analysis

A Thinker

People who sleep in the thinker position...

- long for security, intimacy and joy
- take relationships slowly
- tend to look at the world in rosy colours, and treat people kindly
- are sensitive, though they may present a tough exterior to the world

(This is the most popular sleeping position, and it is adopted more by women than men!)

B Yearner

People who sleep in the yearner position...

- have an open nature
- are slow in making decisions, but once they make up their minds, it is tough to change back
- get suspicious of people easily

C Freefaller

People who sleep in the freefaller position...

- hold strong beliefs and prefer things done their way
- are tense, focused, stubborn and self-oriented, yet passionate about everything they do
- are sensitive to criticism and weak towards stress

D Soldier

People who sleep in the soldier position...

- are quiet, reserved and loyal
- like to protect the people closest to them
- Set high standards for themselves and expect others to do the same

E Starfish

People who sleep in the starfish position...

- are confident and optimistic
- are excellent listeners, making them great friends
- shy away from the spotlight as they prefer to be unnoted helpers, but every now and again, Starfish sleepers shine in the spotlight and enjoy it!

F Stargazer

People who sleep in the stargazer position...

- are lovers of liberty, seekers of comfort and admirers of beauty
- have a magnetic, happy-go-lucky attitude towards life
- enjoy life and all the beautiful things it has to offer
- beware though, Stargazers do not take to discomfort lightly and people may complain that their expectations can be too high at times



Since 1929

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Love Music Love Life



Spotlight

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