

Spotlight



Life is a Magical Journey



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
LAI CHACK MIDDLE SCHOOL**



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Life is a Magical Journey

Welcome to the 6th issue of Spotlight: the annual English magazine showcasing snapshots of our students' learning experiences and achievements. This past school year was a brilliant and meaningful learning experience for both our energetic students and dedicated teachers. Not only are we devoted to building up an encouraging and caring environment for nurturing that nurtures students into individuals with good academic performance who perform well academically, we are committed to equipping them with positive values and ambition towards the journey of life.

The theme of this edition is "Life is a Magical Journey", which echoes with the first ever English Drama show called A Magical Journey, produced by passionate students and teachers during the English Week. The encouraging feedback towards our English Week drama show has undoubtedly further enhanced the confidence of the students and teachers in the production team. The audience was inspired not only by the storyline and the performances, but by the perseverance and the talent that their fellow students showed.

Through events such as a collaborative project with the University of Hong Kong, 'English all Around the World' English Days, the English enrichment courses, English camp and dynamic English Week activities, we showed students that everything in our journey of life has to be done bit by bit with persistence and appreciation. For instance, it only takes a blink of an eye to send an arrow straight into a target; however, it may have taken a person's immeasurable time and effort to acquire the skills. Instead of just focusing on the end result, we encourage our students to look at life as a magical journey, in which they should try their best to find joy while tackling the challenges encountered.

Last but not least, thanks to our Lord that we have had a fruitful year at Lai Chack Middle School. Although we are unique individuals with different backgrounds and opinions, our paths cross with which creates opportunities for us to share our faith, hope and love in the journey of life. We hope you will enjoy the 6th issue of Spotlight and wish you all a magical journey in life!

Mr. Tsang Yau-shing
Principal
Lai Chack Middle School



Sharing by Ms Connie Lau Yin-hing,

1st September, 2014 marked a fresh beginning for the new school year. It was our pleasure to have Ms Connie Lau Yin-hing as our honorable guest on the school commencement day.

During the opening ceremony, Ms Lau, a successful alumna, expressed her joy to hear about the outstanding performance of our students in the HKDSE 2014. Not only did she encourage all fellow students to be perseverant in achieving their goals, she also shared with us her rich experience in collaborating with people from different sectors of society.



Highlights from Ms Lau's speech about her career

The difference between the Consumer Council and the Office of the Ombudsman...

The Consumer Council is an organization which is committed to enhancing consumer welfare and empowering consumers to protect themselves. The Council serves the society in various means. For example, it collects, receives and disseminates information concerning goods, services and immovable property. It also receives and examines complaints and gives advice accordingly. Moreover, it encourages business and professional associations to establish codes of practice that regulate the activities of their members.

The Office of the Ombudsman carries out independent, impartial and objective investigation into complaints concerning the public sector. It is committed to protect human rights of Hong Kong citizens and point out facts when public officers are unjustly accused. One of its many missions is to continue to improve and enhance the quality and efficiency of the public sector.

All in all, the Consumer Council strives to create a fair and sustainable market, whereas the Office of the Ombudsman is committed to ensure that society is served by a fair and efficient public administration.



the Ombudsman of Hong Kong

↘ Encouragement to fellow students...

Successful public administration is one of the key factors the prosperity of a country or city. Two keys to successful public administration are effectiveness and fairness. Likewise, if we want to be successful and a contributing member of society, we need to be cost-effective when we learn and be fair when we act. In other words, we need to stay focused on our duties and plan our time wisely.

↘ More About Ms Connie Lau



After graduating from Chinese University in 1974, Ms Lau joined the Consumer Council and strived to protect consumer rights for 38 years. She was the chief executive for the Consumer Council from 2007 to 2012.

In 2013, she worked as the chairwoman of a working group set up by the UN Conference on Trade and Development. Her role was to help developing countries build consumer-protection frameworks and most importantly,

to review and revise the UN Consumer Protection Guideline, introduced in 1985.

In 2014, Ms Lau took up the position of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong. Instead of heading a team to protect consumer rights, she now hears complaints from those who are treated unfairly by the government.

Ms Lau took up influential roles in the Estate Agents Authority, the Travel Industry Compensation Fund Management Board, the Competition Policy Advisory Group, the Advisory Committee on Travel Agents and the Costs Committee of the Department of Justice. She also served as Member of the Expert Committee on Food Safety of the Centre for Food Safety, the Member of the Deposit-taking Companies Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong

Monetary Authority and the Sub-Committee of Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.



A Nice Chat with Wilson Pang

THE MAGICIAN



How long have you been performing magic?

It's been 6-7 years. I was a part-time magician when I studied at a tertiary institute. After I graduated I became a full time magician. Time flies. It's been 4 years from then.

What makes you like performing magic?

Magic brings an audience happiness through interaction. I like to make people happy. When audiences feel happy because of my magic tricks, I feel happy too. I enjoy my job so much.

What type of magic do you think is the most attractive?

Close-up magic since I like to interact with audience.

If someone wants to be a magician, what advice would you give him or her?

Wilson: Before you join the field, you have to consider carefully whether you are really into the field or not. Actually, there are many magic companies in Hong Kong. You can send CV to those companies and tell them you are interested in magic. If they think you are capable of being a magician, they will give you an

interview. If they feel your passion throughout the interview, they may let you become an apprentice.

As a student, you can buy some magic tricks now and learn how to play to prepare yourself.

What challenges have you faced when being a magician in Hong Kong?

At first nobody knew me and I had no experience. Just a very few people hired me to do performances. Therefore, my salary at the very beginning was very low and unstable. Another concern was my family. My parents were quite worried about me. However, to fulfill my dream, I need to have a good plan.

When did you start to like magic?

When I was 10 years old. One day, when my younger brother returned home from a community centre nearby, he showed me a magic trick that he had learnt. It was amazing and I then thought magic was interesting. From that moment, I was curious about how to do magic tricks.



Reporters:

- 5A Rainbow, Chan Kam-wing
- 5A Toby, Yu Wing-yi
- 5A Enid, Wong Yi-ni,
- 5A Vancy, Li Wen-shi
- 5A Pluto, Tang Tsz-yim

More than a Magical Experience

If you are a member of Lai Chack Middle School, you will definitely agree that the first week of March in 2014 was an unforgettable period. Why? Because the school's annual English Week brought 'A Magical Journey' to all members.

'A Magical Journey' was the theme this year. Students were exposed to different terms and ideas related to 'magic' in English lessons a week before the event. Through participating in various activities from 3th March to 7th March 2014, students became more confident in learning English and discovered that learning the language can be really fun.

Activities of the week

Student Presentation

Students presented something about 'magic' in both Junior and Senior Morning Assemblies.



Poster design Competition



English Corner Competition



Game Booths

Students lined up to play the 'magical' games. Once they got enough stamps or signatures in their English Week passport, they could redeem them for special prizes.



Variety Show

The Magic Performance and the Drama Show were the highlights.



English Channel

Our Net teacher Mr. Tucker gave us a speech about travelling around the world.



"Live life to the fullest, be happy every day"

INTERVIEW WITH MS KELLY TANG

On the day of the Easter service, it was our greatest pleasure to invite Ms. Tang Kar Ling, Kelly as the guest speaker to share her life experiences. Ever since she was a child, she was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a physical disability, which prevented some parts of her body from growing. Now she is contained in a shell of a 2 year old child. It was extremely uncomfortable for her to be born different and to live in a world where others look at her with another set of eyes. However, she did not give up hope. She learnt that if she wanted to be a part of this world, she had to be respected and happy at all times. In order to understand the world, she learnt as much as she could about the human mind and the moral rationale behind it. She is a warm-welcoming and optimistic person. We are so grateful to have invited her to our Easter sharing session. We look forward to meeting her again. Let's pray together.



How do you feel when people give you a strange look?

If people stare at me, or they give me a strange look, I will not be unhapp. They are just curious about me. More importantly, people will always help me when I take public transport. Their acts of kindness and love really touch me and give me lots of comfort. Besides, I never blame my physical disability. I don't care too much about how people look at me. If they stare at me in an awkward way, it's just that they don't know me well enough to see how joyful I can be.

What would you like to say to Lai Chack students about teenagers nowadays?

Everyone must know clearly what they are doing now because they do not want to waste their time. Setting a goal is very important for us so we know what to do now. Being a teenager or a student, studying is very important, you must achieve your goal so you should put most of your effort on your study. Do not give up when you experience failures. Even if something is very difficult, you should face it with courage. In addition to this, there is nothing that comes easy. Study hard and you shall be rewarded.

What is your purpose in life? And how will you gain success?

I like to say that my purposes in life are the things I can do. When I was twelve years old, I learnt how to read the newspaper. I think it is extremely worthwhile because it can broaden my horizons. I had to carry a strong belief in myself that I could succeed. This is because it is very difficult to do something different in my condition. But if I overcome some difficulties, I will be happy when I succeed.

Reporters: 4A Cathy, Cheung Tan-ying
4A Cherry, Lee Yee-ting
4A Swan, Tam Hoi-yi



SHARING BY ELIZABETH LIBBY WONG

Language learning is indeed a never-ending journey. To be a successful learner, motivation and perseverance are important qualities we should have. On 29th April, we were honored to have Ms Elizabeth Libby Wong Chien Chi-lien share with us some effective strategies for learning English. Ms Wong suggests that students should learn to appreciate the beauty of English and develop an interest in the language itself in order to master the language. Here are some useful learning tips shared by Miss Wong:



About Ms Elizabeth Libby Wong Chien Chi-lien

Ms Wong received her early education at the Diocesan Girl's School before she attended the University of Hong Kong, where she was professionally trained in teaching English as a second language. Ms Wong devoted much of her time to teaching the language to young learners in secondary schools and other educational institutions. Ms Wong was also a former civil servant and politician in Hong Kong, serving the Hong Kong Government as the director of the Social Welfare Department. She is currently working with Hong Kong students on drama, poetry and writing skills and is undertaking special projects and workshops in schools throughout Hong Kong.

Start building your vocabulary and enhancing your grammar skills

Vocabulary and grammar are the most fundamental aspects of English. Nonetheless, they may seem daunting to many Hong Kong students. One should understand that 'Rome was not built in one day', thus we should not expect to learn everything in just one day. Instead, Miss Wong advises that students should build up their own vocabulary bank gradually by extensive reading. Likewise, grammar learning also hinges on continuous practice in different written and conversational contexts. Students should grab every opportunity to enhance their grammar through various means.

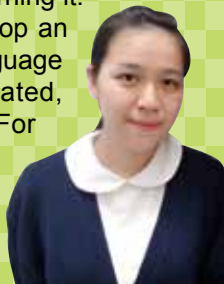
Learn and appreciate the English culture

Learning a second language doesn't just allow you to communicate, it also gives you an insight into a new culture. Students should open themselves to the English language in different cultural aspects. One of the best ways of understanding English culture would be interacting with English native speakers in daily contexts. Speaking to your NET teacher at school would be an excellent idea!

What our students think about learning English?

4A Scarlett, Law Wai-ki

'I love English. That's why I am always keen on learning it. I think the best way of learning English is to develop an interest in it. Having the passion to explore the language is important. Through being proactive and motivated, you can easily find that learning English is fun! For instance, enjoying English films and reading English books are effective ways of learning English. You can watch some English dramas or reality shows as your daily entertainment as well.'



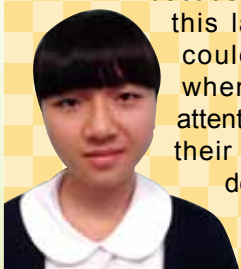
4A Leo, Ng Yuet

'What are the good ways to learn English? To me, I like learning English in a fun and relaxing way. I listen to English songs, watch English movies and TV programs every day. It is because I can learn a lot of new vocabulary items. Besides, I try to read English news articles and listen to English news programs because I think it helps strengthen my English ability as well as enhance my critical thinking skills. In school, I also join the English club because I like to meet people who love English as much as I do. There are many activities for us to join every year and I have definitely benefited a lot from these activities.'



4A Susan, Su Hui-shan

'I used to think learning English was boring and difficult. That's because I hadn't figured out the right way of learning this language. I now realize that learning English could be interesting and fulfilling. For example, when I am watching English movies, I would pay attention to how the actors speak, so that I could learn their tones, speech and intonation. I believe that with determination, I can improve my English from time to time. As an old saying goes 'When there is a will, there is a way.'



INTERVIEW WITH MR JONATHAN TUCKER

Hello Mr Tucker. It's great to be here with you today for an interview. First of all, could you tell us about your hometown?

I come from a small city in the United Kingdom called Norwich. It's in the east of England, around 100 miles north east of London. It's really different to Hong Kong. The city itself is much smaller but the surrounding area, or the county of Norfolk as it's known, is 5 times bigger than Hong Kong.

Oh really? Hong Kong is quite small, isn't it? So how long have you been here in Hong Kong and what do you think of it compared to Norwich?

I've been in Hong Kong since 2005, so that's almost 10 years. Like I said before, the two cities are very different. I think the transport here is better than that in Norwich. It's so easy and cheap to get from A to B, whereas in Norwich it takes longer and is generally a lot more expensive. Having said this, one thing I cannot stand in Hong Kong is the pollution. In Norwich the air is so much cleaner and I really noticed the difference when I went back during Christmas and the summer. Plus, it's quieter. I guess this is why I now live in Tai Po instead of Kowloon or Hong Kong Island.

So what do you do in your spare time?

When I'm free I like to watch movies. I like Hollywood movies but I also watch a lot of Hong Kong films and those from other parts of Asia like Japan and South Korea. I also try to get lots of exercise. I go for regular runs and compete in marathons and triathlons, which is when you swim, cycle and then run in that order. I also enjoy reading a lot. I find it relaxing.

Good point! It is relaxing. So Mr Tucker there are many developed cities in Asia, why did you choose to come to live and work in Hong Kong?

Good question. Well I first came here in 2001 when I was 18 years old and I really enjoyed myself. I felt that it was a fun, comfortable place to live away from home. So I came back in 2005 after graduating from university. I guess I like the lifestyle here. You can go hiking over Lantau and then relax on a beach. Then you can go and get something nice to eat. This can be quite hard to do all in one day in Norwich as the nearest beach is about 20 miles away and we don't have any really big hills or mountains.

I see. Let's talk about teaching and learning English. As a native speaker and a teacher, could you give some advice about learning English?

Well, the most important thing is to never give up. Whilst there are many differences between English and Chinese, it is not too difficult to learn the basics as long as you are positive about it and try hard. Speaking the language with your friends outside of class is also a good way of practicing.

So do you have any experience in learning a foreign language? Could you share with us your experience?

Yes, of course. I studied French at school for 6 years and received a GCSE in it. However, the problem for me was that I seldom travelled to France so I very rarely got a chance to use it. To solve this problem my friends and I would sometimes speak French to each other. Also, our French teacher would not let us use any English



in class. This meant we had to try to speak French without worrying about making mistakes. Also, having lived in Hong Kong for so long, I have picked up a little bit of Cantonese. I also learned Mandarin at CUHK and I guess I can speak it at very elementary level. I think if I combined my Cantonese and my Mandarin I'd be quite good at Chinese.

Right. So could you tell us what Hong Kong students' most common mistakes are?

Sure. Take tenses as an example. In Chinese there is no tense but in English we have over 10 different verb tenses. Students make many mistakes in this area but I think as a language teacher it's wrong to spend time just correcting students' "mistakes" all the time. Everyone makes mistakes when they speak, even native-speakers. It's only something that needs attention if it is done time and time again or if it hinders communication. With this in mind, I'd argue that another common mistake students make is believing that "making mistakes" is in some way shameful or wrong. Students shouldn't worry about

this as much as they do. Like I said before, I had to try to speak French without worrying about all the possible mistakes I might make.

What about movies? Do you agree that watching English films is the best way to learn English?

I wouldn't say it is the "best" way to learn as every learner is different but it is certainly a helpful way to learn. Especially as most people like watching movies. More importantly, it caters for different levels. Some students can try watching without any subtitles, whilst others may watch with English subtitles or even Chinese subtitles if they don't understand at all. It's all about exposing yourself to the language as much as possible and I think movies do this really well.

Mr Tucker, thank you so much for talking to us about your life here in Hong Kong, your life in the UK and your thoughts on learning English. We really appreciate it! Thanks very much!

A Bit More About Mr Tucker

Favourites

Animal: Tiger or Lion. Any big cat is really cool.

Movie(s): Casablanca, The Big Sleep, Alien. I also like 1950s science-fiction horror.

Book: Nineteen Eighty-Four and Animal Farm by George Orwell. Also, Nothing to Envy by Barbara Demick about life in North Korea is an excellent read, plus many more.

TV Show: The Wire which is about the different levels within society in the city of Baltimore, USA.

Likes/Dislikes

HK Likes: family and friends, climate during winter compared to UK (so cold outside in the UK), dim sum, spectacular views

HK Dislikes: constant noise of mobile phones, climate during winter compared to UK (so cold inside Hong Kong flats)

UK Special Things: family and friends, home-

Place in Hong Kong: There are so many. Possibly most recent favourite place in Hong Kong is the top of Lantau Peak. Very quiet and the view is amazing.

Language: Tough one... I quite like Italian but I cannot speak a word of it.

Movie Star: Humphrey Bogart and Carey Grant. Both gentlemen but also very cool.

Food: Cicchetti (chee-KET-ti) is one I can think of. It is a tasty snack food from small restaurants/bars in Venice, Italy. Oh and sushi too.

Drink: Coffee (black, no sugar)

cooked food, summer weather, the smell of grass

LCMS Likes: Everyone is so nice! I feel very welcome.

City: So many! London as most of my friends live there. Norwich as my family are there and it is relaxing, Vancouver in Canada as there is so much to do. Oh and of course, Hong Kong.

Reporters: 4A Annie, Lam On-ni
4A Glen, Mai Jia-heng



A Magical Journey We're



'Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, welcome to the Lai Chack English Theater. Our Magical Journey is going to start very soon. Please sit back and relax as you enjoy our show.' A Magical Journey is the very first drama performance produced by our School English Drama Team. Our crew and cast not only learnt a lot about drama throughout the whole production process, but also got the chance to put what they had learnt in their English lessons into contextualized practice. With the original script written by our NET teacher Mr. Tucker, our team devoted itself to providing our student audience with a fruitful, joyful and knowledgeable journey to places around the world.



The Show, the D



Words from



Jenny (Right: 5C Kazisa, Chau Tsz-lam)
Others may think that we were doing nothing but boring work. For me, it was one of the greatest moments in my lifetime. An absolutely fabulous experience.

Tom (Left: 4A Glen, Mai Jia-heng)
Teamwork effortlessly made the drama show fantastic. Feeling good to stand on the stage.



Teacher (Mr Jonathan Tucker)
I really enjoyed working on this year's English drama. Everybody was really fun and hardworking. I'm not much of an actor but acting as the teacher was a great experience for me.



Jenny's Mother (Left: 4A Carmen Yip Ka-man)
It is my first time to join the school English drama performance. To me, it is a special experience which is extremely exciting and enjoyable.

Jenny's Father (Right: 5E1 Ken, Wong Sui-cheong)
It is my first time to take up a mature role as a father. I felt so excited!



Angela Merkel (Left: 5C Danielle, Chung Ching-yi)

It is a challenging role for me as Ms Merkel is a well-known person in the world.

Doctor (Middle: 4A Terry, Lo Ka-chun)

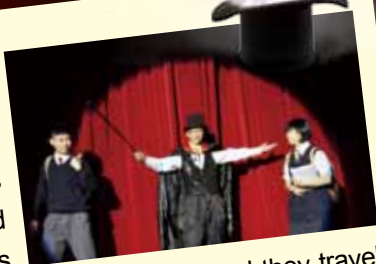
Perfect! It's God's Magic!

The Plot

Tom (Glen Mak) and Jenny (Kazisa Chau) are Secondary Students in Hong Kong. They are poorly behaved, never pay attention and as a result are failing at school. Their teacher informs them that they must do well in their next presentation in order to pass the year otherwise their fathers will send them to study in China.



On the way home from school they meet Phileas (Jack Liu), a time traveller from the future who informs them that they are destined for great things and offers them help. He gives them his Magic Curtain and they travel the world looking for people from different countries to teach them about life in other parts of the world. As well as learning about cultures of the world, both Tom and Jenny learn about the importance of caring for others and respect.



Dance and the Audience



actors and actresses



Phileas (Left: 4A Jack, Liu Jia-ming)
I am glad to take part in the drama performance as I have learnt something that I can't learn in class.

Waitress de Pierre (Right: 5A Eling, Wong Chui-ling)
I'm happy to have a chance to join the English Drama Performance. The experience of it was really fun and precious. I hope I can join the show again next year.

I was quite surprised to be selected as one of the actors as my English is not very sophisticated.

Wayne Rooney (Right: 4B Manton, Sin Man-fung)
A good drama performance requires strong teamwork and great effort. It's really a challenging but special learning experience.



Lady Gaga (Left: 4A Alfred, Yang Jun-han)
Enjoying the show is the only thing that I have to do.

Gaga's Assistant (Right: 4A Aaron Zhou Jian-chao)
It's my honor to participate in such a major event and act as Lady Gaga's assistant. Never will I forget this memorable and delightful experience.



Supporting Actor and Actresses (Left: 2B Mabel, Ben Iwunze)
I am happy and satisfied.

(Middle: 3A Jenny, Wong Chun-ni)
I had a lot of fun doing the English Drama and I hope that I can do it again.

(Right: 2A Brian, Jiang Hao-hua)
I felt good and excellent!!

Words from our backstage crew



Assistant Director Team

(Right: 4A Turry, Lo Ka-chun)
Being an assistant director is not only a challenging job but also a new experience to me.

(Left: 5E1 Ke, n Wong Sui-cheong)
Being the assistant director was a happy thing for me. It's good to see that our audience enjoyed our show.



Art Director

(3A Leo, Li Wai-ho)

It's nice and I hope to join the team again next year.



Costume Designer and Make-up artists Team

(From Left to Right: 4A Meiki, Lau Mei-ki, 4A Tina, Ko Yung, 4A Joyce, Chan Ho-yi)

We are so proud of our designs for the make-up and the costumes.



Stage Manager Team

(Left: 4A Carmen, Yip Ka-man)
Although the backstage work was quite hard, we are all satisfied and pleased because of the success that we have achieved in the drama performance.

(Right: 4A Aaron, Zhou Jian-chao)
Nothing behind the curtain is easy but the applause and praising told us that it was worthwhile. Thank you!



Sound Effect Team

(Left: 3A Natalie Sing Yeuk-ying, Right: 4E1 Honson, Ng Tsz-hong)

It was extremely interesting and we have also learned many things during rehearsals and the performance.



Stagehand Team (Man in Black)
(From Left to Right: 4D Tin, Choi Ngo-tin, 4C Ben, Lee Chun-yui, 4C Jeffrey, Tsang Kwun-fung, 4C Daniel, Lam Shun-nang.)

We are so proud to be part of the team and we have learnt to move very fast after the show!



Lighting Team

(From Left to Right: 4A Tiger, Ma Tie-ge, 3A Jenny, Wong Chun-ni, 3B Hu Lei)

Being a member of the Drama Team gives us a sense of achievement. Although I didn't play any role this time, I was still very delighted to be responsible for the spotlight.

Words from our backstage crew



Magic is everywhere!
You just have to believe!

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

“Discursive construction of critical thinking in the Hong Kong Senior Secondary Curriculum: Language differences and cross-curricular support” is the project that we participated in this academic year. It was carried out by a research team from the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong. The project aimed to investigate how senior secondary students in Hong Kong show critical thinking skills through Chinese and English speaking and writing. It also aimed to explore how the development of critical thinking is supported in the Liberal Studies, Chinese and English Language curricula in the Hong Kong Senior Secondary curriculum.

Six teachers (two Chinese teachers, two English teachers and two Liberal Studies teachers) and twelve Secondary Five students took part in the research project. All student participants completed a questionnaire in November 2013 and conducted two reading tasks which were related to social and cultural issues in March 2014. The teacher participants were interviewed in detail by researchers from the University of Hong Kong in June 2014.

Through taking part in the research, extra practice in small group discussions and argumentative writing on critical cultural and social issues in both Chinese and English was given to student participants. In addition, all participating students benefited from the feedback that the researchers had given to them based on their performance. With the extra practice and opportunities to receive feedback student participants' critical thinking skills had been strengthened.



Event Archive

English Week

The first week in March 2014 was no difference from any other time slot on the calendar. We were braving the early spring humid and chilly weather. Yet, it was a drastic difference if looked from another perspective. The week from 3 to 7 March was the spotlight of the English Department or, to be more precise, the focus of the whole school—the annual English Week. A Magical Journey was this year's theme.

The English Department charmed the whole school with a hypnotic magic spell. Students gained a vast and profound knowledge of the world of magic. The audience were dazzled by the magic tricks handled by deft and nifty hands of the magician, Mr Wilson Pang.



English Day Camp

40 students from S.1 all the way up to S.5 who had a heart to better themselves embarked on an expedition headed for Stanley for the English-Rich Outing Programme on 30 June 2014. They were in an English-rich environment in which it was stipulated that English was the only medium for interaction. The aim was to let students use the language as much as possible in a real life situation. The moment they reached Stanley, they wasted no time in exploring the landmarks such as Stanley Beach, Murray Building and Stanley Market.

They also learned that table manners were important and made meals more enjoyable. They knew that they would be proud if they followed the rules and impress other people with good table manners.

Students in groups interviewed foreigners in the afternoon blazing and scorching sun. It was expected that they would learn skills for interview, speak English with confidence, collect and correlate statistics. All students accomplished the task and present and gave positive feedback.





What left an indelible mark in everybody's memory was the highlight—the drama. The script, costumes, casting, backstage work, lighting and directing were all done by the English Department from scratch. All those who were involved showed perseverance. With concerted efforts, it was up to scratch. It earned top accolades from all those who watched it.



English Day

Within this school year, certain Thursdays will be engraved on students' minds forever and ever. They went on 'field trips' on English Day. Minds wandering around Paris, New York, Singapore and Tokyo at will, students were immersed in eye-opening and eye-popping journeys. They gained 'hands-on' experiences of culture, culinary delights and tourist resorts of the metropolises through various activities in and out of class. These amazing trips were organized by the English Department with a determined effort to helping students learn the English language in a fun and innovative way. They now know that people use 'English Around the World'.



English Corner Competition

Classes rack their brains to beautify the broad designated for the English Corner in their classrooms. They talked about one of the cities introduced on this years' English Days. The broad was decorated with pictures, photos with captions and brief introductions. All designs were focused on this years' theme: English Around the world. For the English Week, on the broad a magic trick was shown to take students on 'A Magical Journey'. The most creative and artistic minds were recognized for their talents with prizes. Students learned English by doing. They had memorable journey on which they had their minds enlightened.



Speech Festival

Every winter LCMS students take part in the Speech Festival. It is a golden chance for them to display their skills in poem recitation. This academic year saw no difference. Lai Chack participants signed up by the score. They did not show any slight sign of stage fright. Through constant practice before the competitions, confidence was carried on their faces. As a result, merits were awarded to those who had outstanding performances.





Good People Good Deeds

'Good People Good Deeds' was the theme of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals English Story-Writing Competition in 2013. Participants had to face severe, fierce and tough competition to get recognition. A student from S2A, Jiang Hao Hua Brian's inspiring and intriguing story Where Honesty Matters was rewarded a merit. The story had a well-developed plot and organization. It was an unparalleled opportunity for Brian to hone his writing skills. The Award Presentation Ceremony was on 14 December 2013.



STUDENTS' WRITING



A Wonderful person- Beethoven



Today I am going to write about a wonderful person. The person I'm going to write about is a music legend. His name is Beethoven.

Beethoven was born on December 16, 1770 in Germany. I admire him because of his great personality and devotion towards music. His love for classical and western music was genuine. He is the only composer that still remains famous and influential in our society today. As you may or may not know, he was visually and hearing impaired but he still followed his dream. He locked himself in a cellar when he was young so he could practise the piano and the violin on his own in a remote and quiet environment. Once in a while, his father came down to practise with him. As they worked together to discover new tunes, they soon came up with an alternate sound that astonished and amused the public. He was able to build up his own image and gain recognition to society in despite of his disability.

In the future, I hope I can be a person like Beethoven. No matter what, I will not give up. I will pursue his dream to make the world accept the person that I am today.

1A Joyce, Leung Wai-yan



A Wonderful person - Run Run Shaw

This person will always be remembered as the centre of our attention. He is Sir Run Run Shaw. He was born in Shanghai in 1907. He was short and thin with dark brown eyes. He was a cheerful and helpful person.

Sir Run Run Shaw was a filmmaker. He was the founder of the Shaw Brothers Studio which is one of the largest production theatres of all time. He was also the chairman of TVB, the most dominant television channels in Hong Kong.

Run Run Shaw was a philanthropist. He was not selfish. He donated billions of dollars to educational institutes in both Hong Kong and China. There can never be another Run Run Shaw because he did unique things at a unique time. He shaped, influenced and loved movies. His presence has motivated the entertainment industry. He made television more enjoyable for everyone to watch.

His ambition inspires me a lot. He was one person that believed that if you work hard, you will be able to accomplish anything. I believe in him so the key to my success is to work hard every day.

1A Teresa, Fung Tsz-ying



Where Honesty Matters

One Sunday morning, Kevin, a 14-year-old teenager who lived in a place that people called "the city of sadness", was on his way to watch his favorite basketball team play. Coming from an impoverished family, Kevin's biggest pleasure and also entertainment was to watch basketball matches in the public recreational centre located just miles away from his home.

When Kevin was walking across the park, something on a bench caught his eye. "What's that?" wondered Kevin. He then proceeded towards the bench to have a closer look. It was a briefcase, a leather-made one with shiny gold hardware hinges on the sides. "Who has left this here?" Kevin looked around as he wondered, but there was nobody around. He then decided to look into the briefcase to see if he could get any clues as to where it was from. When he opened the briefcase, he found nothing but an A4 size envelope. Inside the envelope, Kevin discovered something that he had never seen in his entire life – tons of cash arranged neatly in piles.

He couldn't believe his eyes. Looking at all the \$1,000 dollar notes in his hands, Kevin didn't even know how much money there was in total. At that moment, he couldn't help but think of his family. He had one younger brother and one younger sister who were still studying in primary school. His family lived together in a 300 square-foot unit in a public housing estate. His father was disabled after an accident years ago while his mother worked part-time as a cleaner in a restaurant. They had been leading a difficult life. The money would have meant a lot to them.

"What should I do with this money?" Kevin thought.

Sitting on the bench with the briefcase in his hands, Kevin made a tough decision. He knew he had to give the money back to its owner. He just waited and waited for a long time. Finally, there was a middle-aged man rushing towards him.

"Excuse me. Would you mind giving me back my briefcase?" asked the man.

"Sure. I have been waiting for you. Here you are." said Kevin. The man was relieved when he found that none of his possessions had gone.

"Thank you so much young lad. You know, this is really important to me. I need this to pay for my daughter's surgery. She is now in hospital waiting for me. Thanks for being honest." explained the man.

"It's okay, sir. This is what I should do." Kevin answered calmly.

"Your honesty really matters. You could save my girl!" said the man.

The basketball match had ended right after Kevin arrived. Without any disappointment, Kevin was grateful instead. After all, having the opportunity to help others is a blessing in itself. It was the first time in his life he felt feeling so fulfilled as he realized the true value of honesty and integrity.

2A Brian Jiang Hao-hua

The Bamboo King

How can a person make a difference? If you asked me this question a long time ago, I would struggle to give an answer. That is until the day I met somebody very special.

I met him at Kowloon Park. He is an old man called Bamboo King because he always walks with a 7 feet long bamboo stick while taking the time to clean the park. Everyone, including me, gave him the nickname Bamboo King.

There is a secret between the two of us. I once saw him once take a bag of dog food and a bottle of water to the back of the hill when I was

walking back home. I was curious, so I followed him. I was surprised to find that he was helping the stray dogs. Suddenly, he found me hiding behind the long grass and begged me not to tell others. I promised I would not and started helping him take care of the stray dogs.

I have never seen such a perseverant and responsible person in my whole life. He is a role model of mine who shows his love, appreciation and kindness to people around him, and simply makes our lives different.

3A Jenny, Wong Chun-ni

Spiritual Help



Alex was 17 years old and lived in mainland China. He had a hard and unhappy childhood because of family violence. However, things changed two years ago because his mother finally divorced his father. Then he began to believe that his life was going to change for the better. "Everything is going to be fine," he thought, but if life had taught us anything it is that we cannot always get what we want.

Alex's own mother decided to make a better life, so she left her beloved child behind and went to a place that she had never been to. She went to Hong Kong and fight for her and Alex's future. Alex was just shocked because of the choice that his mother had made.

Alex just got lost and felt painful because of everything. He lived alone. When the sun went down and dark came, he just felt lonely. When he got in trouble, no one ever helped him. Facing the challenges of life tore him apart because he wasn't strong enough. The emptiness grew inside his heart and soul. He didn't feel safe and didn't know what to do about it. His ship of hope was sinking. He cried so often because of the pressure of his study and life and he even got obsessive-compulsive disorder. He started to drink and smoke a lot and went out at night out frequently.

One day, he walked out of school when his phone rang. He picked it up. It was his mother.

"Alex, my son, I have to tell you that I can't be home this month because I have a lot of work to do so my days off are gone." His mother said on the other side of the cell phone.

"But we haven't seen each other for 3 months," he said disappointedly. "That's fine. I will be okay, bye. Got to go."

Despite saying it calmly, Alex still felt angry and helpless. The autumn wind I blew through his face and hair. The eeling of desperation was consuming him all over again. After dropping his backpack at home, he got dressed and went to the bar. There he met a guy that totally changed his life.

Young women and men were dancing happily. There were smiles on their face. Alex walked straight to the counter. The bartender looked at him strangely as he gave him a glass of beer, and. He looked around the bar and soon found that he didn't feel comfortable because he was too young to be there. Suddenly, a man came and sat next to him and ordered a shot of whiskey. Alex had noticed this guy on the dance floor He had short black hair and a straight

nose. He was handsome, Alex thought.

Alex finished up the glass of beer and noticed that the guy was staring at him. "Hey kid, why are you hanging out here? Lost your girls?" said the guy.

Alex smiled and said, "No I just don't want to go home. Nobody's home."

"Don't say that. Everybody has a family, a home. By the way, I am Parker, I am from Inner Mongolia. You are?"

"Alex. My mother left me behind. I think she does not even care about me at all. I'm facing lots of problems all by myself which is something that I can't handle. I think I should be protected."

Parker laughed out loud. "Seriously, even if you are still young, maybe just 15 or 16, you are not you are no longer a kid anymore. Life isn't easy. Sometimes you just need to face those things that upset you. You need to protect yourself instead of expecting to be protected and I am sure your mother will always be there for you."

"But she didn't even want to come to see me or call me," said Alex with a sense of anger.

"No. You are wrong. Just because, she didn't call you does not mean that she does not care about you. Sometimes, distance is beautiful. You two are family always and forever. Don't let your anger and ego consume you because you will find that you are making a mistake which I made many years ago."

Alex felt happy about talking with this guy and he seemed to understand lots of things. "Yeah, maybe you are right. I should move on and try harder to live up to my own expectations, not others."

Parker smiled again, "Ah, kid you've figured it out quickly! By the way, you should probably drink coke next time."

Their friendship didn't end that night. After that night, Parker went to Alex's often. He cooked for him. They watched soccer games together and chatted together. Alex's study was back on track. He started to feel much happier than before. Even though Alex moved to Hong Kong a year later and Parker went back to Inner Mongolia, their friendship continued.

Parker gave Alex his selfless help and became as Alex's friend while Alex was in trouble and lost. Parker pulled Alex back with his love and spiritual help.

That's the halo of humanity.

4A Glen, Mai Jia-heng



A Kaleidoscope of Kindness

Life is so wonderful but one thing that makes the world even more wonderful is when people help each other wholeheartedly.

Time flies and the world changes. Although society is becoming more and more indifferent, there are still good people doing good deeds.

I recall a scene that I witnessed in the metro station last month. I was waiting for the train and when it arrived, there were so many passengers trying to get off quickly. Suddenly, I heard someone shouting, 'Can anyone help me? I need to change trains but I don't know which one to take!' I looked around and saw an old blind man who looked very helpless. There were so many people around him but no one was willing to lend him a helping hand. I could not stand it any longer and walked towards him. Although I am usually a shy person, I put away my shyness and talked to him. At last, we found his train together and I bid farewell. I felt so happy after helping him, but I felt so disappointed at the same time as I found it rather difficult to understand why people have become so indifferent to people in need.

Looking back at the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, there were so many victims who suffered from the tragedy. In the disaster, the army and the medical team rushed to the site as soon as they could. I remember a soldier who really impressed me. As he rescued people and carried them out of the ruins, his hands had become badly mutilated. However, the injury did not stop him from carrying out the injured people continuously out of the ruins. He said his physical pain was nothing compared to the physical and mental damage of the victims. He added that the only thing that gave him pain was the sight of suffering victims and therefore, he didn't want to stop his rescuing mission!

Besides the brave and selfless army, there were many volunteers from different sectors of society and places in China who rushed to Wenchuan to offer help. The volunteers donated blood, food and clothes. They also put up tents as temporary workstations to help distribute supplies, maintained order and took care of the sick and the elderly. Moreover, people from all over China and around the world donated money and offered

help. Even people were not very wealthy tried to help. One of the donors who inspired me the most was a beggar who had lost both legs but still tried his best to donate what little money he had!

Many have been inspired by such good people and good deeds but some may wonder why people were so eager to help even when they did not really know the victims personally. Most helpers said they offered help due to one simple reason – kindness. They really wanted to help the victims and reduce their pain. In our daily lives, we often come across strangers but we will still lend them a helping hand when they are in need.

Good people and good deeds are heard daily in different parts of the world. Another recent example is found in Hong Kong in July 2013. A woman from mainland China who jumped into Victoria Harbor was rescued by a woman from Russia. That day, the Russian woman saw the Chinese woman walking toward the pier and was deep in thought. She felt there was something unnatural about the body language of the Chinese woman and so, she kept her eye on the Chinese woman. A few minutes later, the Chinese woman jumped down to the sea from the pier, fully clothed with a backpack. Although it seemed that she was just swimming away from the pier, the Russian woman thought it might be a suicidal action and called the police immediately. In the end, the Chinese woman was persuaded by the police and to get back to land. The Russian woman felt relieved that the Chinese woman was rescued and she hoped that the Chinese woman would think more positively. The Chinese woman has earned a second chance because of the Russian woman's kindness.

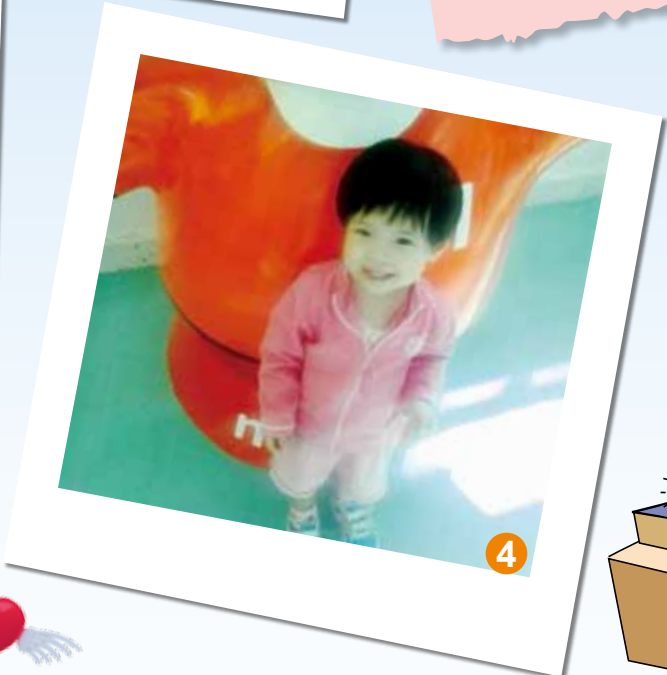
In this world, there are many people who encounter difficulties. They need our willingness to lend our helping hands when they are in need. Besides, by helping others, we help ourselves to be inspired. It is a win-win situation and so, as long as we help each other, the Earth will become a nicer and more harmonious planet!

4A Swan, Tam Hoi-yi

Baby Hunt



What do you think of our teachers who are the parents of these cute children? Look at the clues and have a guess. See if you know who belongs to whom. These kids have inherited their parents' bright appearance. You can find the answer at the bottom right corner.



1. Hi, I am Aiden. My mum is a science teacher. She is knowledgeable on how chemical works.
2. I am Mathew and I am only 3 months old in this picture. I have my mum's eyes and laugh. By the way, she teaches Liberal Studies. You should know who my mom is!
3. My name is yoyo. I am six. My mum teaches Chinese Language at school and she has beautiful long black hair. I admire her a lot.
4. I am Hannah and two year-old now. My dad is strong and tall. I think he will show me some biology experiments when I grow older.
5. I am Pui Yee and I am three months old in this photo. My mum is a beautiful woman who teaches Chinese Language.

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6. We are Jasmine and Jonathan. We are 7 and 3 years old. Our father is a caring guy and he teaches Chinese language. Guess who he is!
7. We are Yat Ka and Yat Sum . Our father is good at playing sport. He is never stumped by any sport games. And he is a great photographer as well!
8. Hi, we are Gordon and Henry. My mother teaches the Health Management and Social Care. It is thanks to her that we grow up as a happy and healthy child.
9. Hi, we are Sze Yin and Sze Yu. We are 4.5 and 1.5 years old in the picture. Our mother teaches both biology and Liberal Studies. Do you know who she is?
10. Hi, we are Henry and George. We are 3.5 years old and 3.5 months old. Our mother likes wearing hair band. She teaches English. Can you guess who she is?
11. Hi, I am Alexis. I am 2 years old. My mother has long hair. She teaches English and is the class teacher of a form 5 class.



- Answer:**
1. Davie, Lam Win-yu
 2. Doris, Li Shui-kam
 3. Eva, Lo Pui-ming
 4. Gavin, Lam Wing-lam
 5. Au Yeung Ka-yan
 6. William, Lee Kit-ming
 7. Law Kam-chuen
 8. Lily, Choy Lai-fong
 9. Tang See-kay
 10. Cherry, Wong Pik-yu
 11. Fiona, Li Yun-moi

MEMORABLE TIMES AT LCMS

After the English week, I found out that English is just more than a set of words. If we really put our heart into it and listen to what others do and say, English can be interesting and fun. That being said, I really enjoyed this year's drama performance. I was so happy that I could see my fellow schoolmates cooperated so well in an English play. They did not find it difficult to express themselves in English. They gave me courage to speak in English too. So, don't be afraid to speak English! Reach out to every opportunity and use English as much as possible.



3A Rainy, Ma Ka-yee

My most unforgettable experience is working with the drama club during the English week. Through hard work and patience we were able to speak English while performing in a play. It was absolutely incredible! The one thing that I've learnt from this experience is that 'Practice makes Perfect'. I was so happy that we were able to direct all of our minds to achieving one goal. I learned that we can make anything possible. It was such a good show!



3A Natalie, Sing Yuk-ying

This year I was nominated as the chairperson of the English Society. In order to develop a stronger English environment, I had the opportunity to share my experiences in English with others and had had fun at the same time. I hope everyone can experience this language as I did! Don't give up everyone :).



4A Annie, Lam On-ni

My most unforgettable moment was participating in this year's English drama performance. We spent a lot of time to prepare our acts preparing and rehearsing our lines. Everyone did their best. I was fascinated that the show was appreciated by everyone. From this experience, I have learnt the importance of collaboration and when we work as a team nothing can stop us from succeeding.



4A Carmen, Yip Ka-man

Lai Chack Middle School has given me many special moments. But if I were to choose one, it would be the chance to be a make-up artist and assist in the production of our play during the English week. During this period, I was in charge of the performers' costumes and make up. As a backstage helper, it meant a lot to help out in such a large performance. It was a really meaningful experience to me.



4A Tina, Ko Yung

This year I became the leader of the Blue House. I learnt how to organize different activities and to work with others as a team. This was the first time I have ever been in charge of a committee with that so many members. I have been really so happy this year because I have made new friends and learnt what it really means to be a leader.



4A Alfred, Yang Jun-han

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5A Vancy, Li Wen-shi
5A Pluto, Tang Tsz-yim
6A Christo, He Ying-yi



Education

You won't believe the crazy things I'm learn-
I'm learning how to juggle, ride a unicycle too.
I now know how to twist balloons
many different shapes, and how to make a c-
out of multi-colored drapes.
I've learned to run in floppy shoes
and how to dye my hair.
I've even learned the graceful art
of dancing with a bear.
For when we moved, although we could
have picked from many towns,
the place we moved had just one school:
a school for training clowns.





*On The Journey Of Life, Cherish The Chase As Much As
You Treasure The Trophy.*

By Joe Caruso

Spotlight

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