

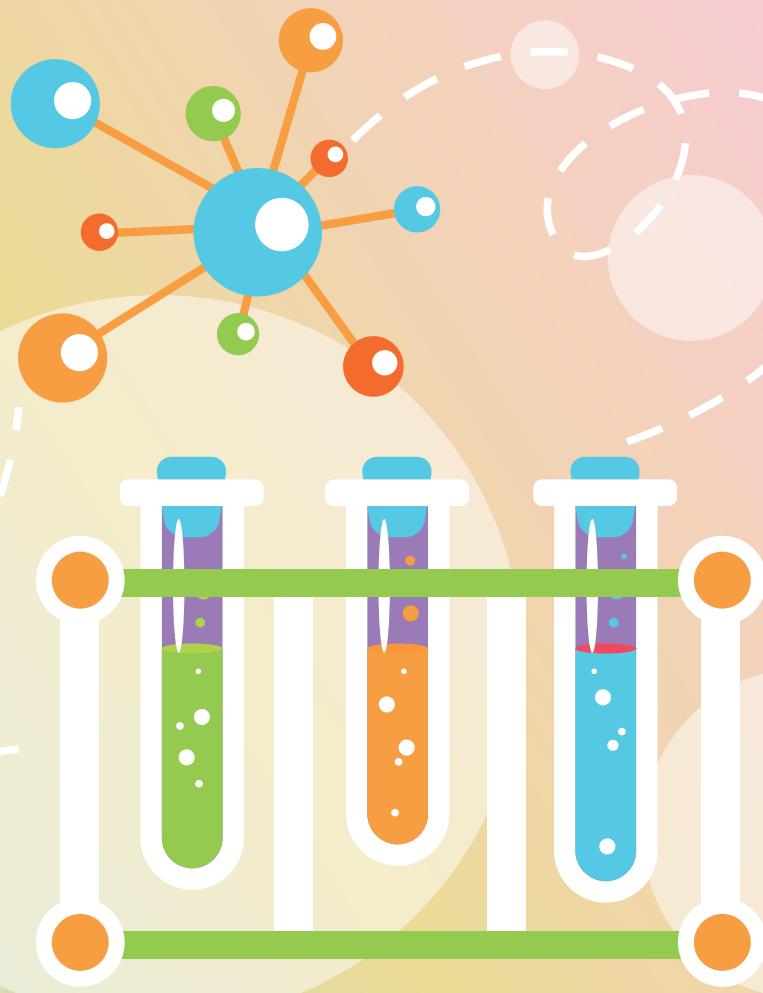
Spotlight
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Spotlight



Making the Impossible, Possible

IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE



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And Jesus looking upon them said to them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.
Matthew 19:26

Lai Chack Middle School

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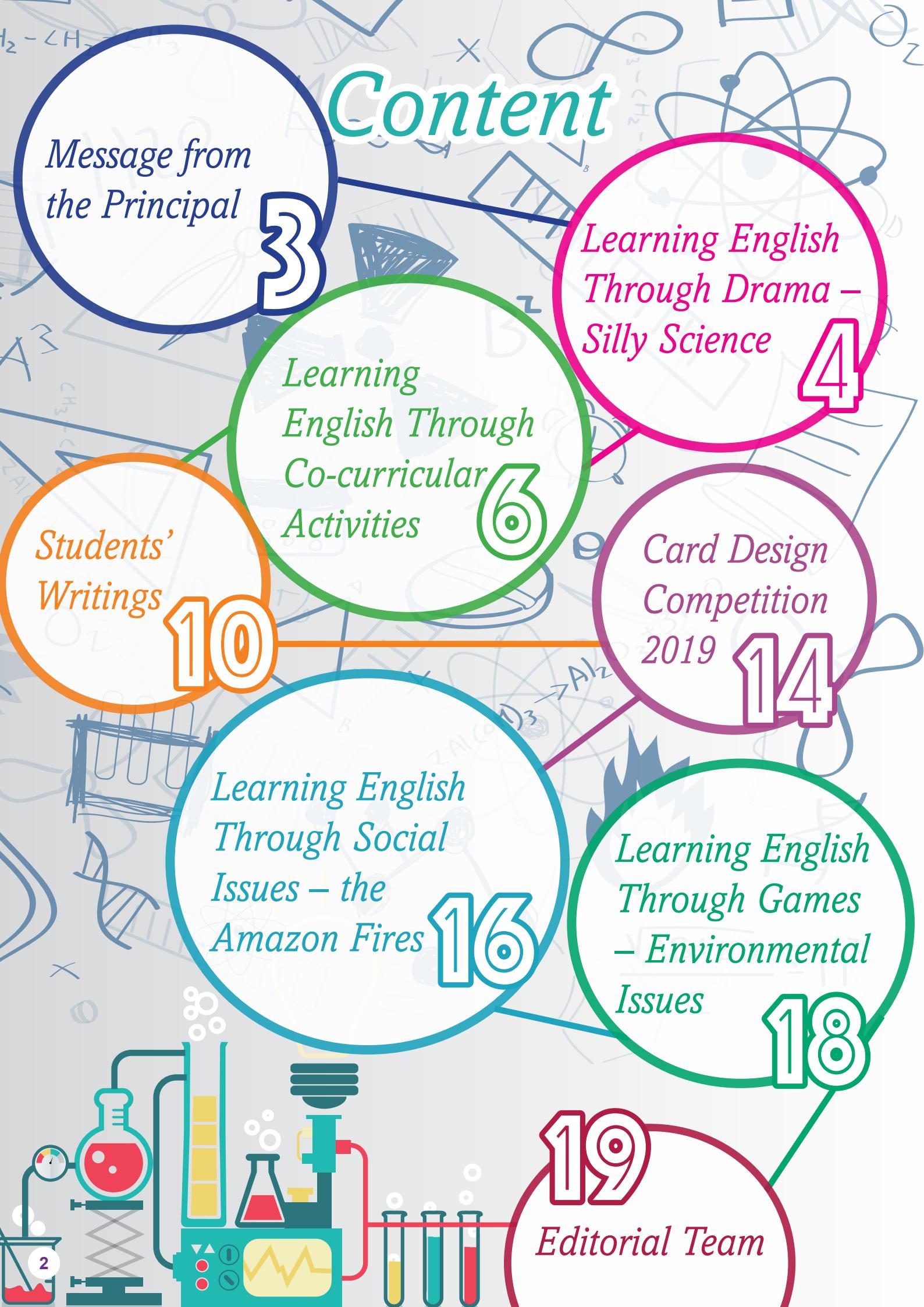
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Believe in Yourself, Nothing is Impossible

Welcome to the 11th issue of Spotlight, the annual English magazine of Lai Chack Middle School. The theme of this year is 'Make the impossible, possible'.

There was a movie called 'Forrest Gump' in the United States. What the movie led to us is the wisdom - 'Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get'. It encouraged us to be more tolerant of uncertainty, have faith in ourselves, take the first step and we may encounter with something that is unexpected. Similar to chocolates, only by opening the box can we know what we get at last!

I believe that our students have enormous potential in different perspectives such as sports, arts, and music. English, which is considered as a very complicated language by Hong Kong pupils, is no exception. Hardly do they achieve their full potential as a lot of limits are set before further action is taken. For instance, failures from past experiences scare people off. By contrast, be open and positive to new things allows us to discover more. Believe you can and you are halfway there.

In addition to attitude, knowledge and ability are also essential to success in life. In Lai Chack, we are not only a companion to our students, but we also act as a platform to provide various sorts of training, opportunities and activities. Having said that, our English Department, has organized a series of activities, providing our students with different chances to learn and practise their English. As stated in First Corinthians 13:7, 'It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' Let's learn to have faith in yourself, make the impossible, possible.



Mr. Lee Kit Ming
Principal



Learning English through Drama

Theme: Silly Science

Description

Drama involves dialogue and script-writing which are great ways for students to enhance both their speaking, writing and listening skills.

Regarding the theme of each year, the English Department invites different drama groups to perform in our school. In this year, we were very fortunate to have Rumple and Friends performing 'Silly Science' onstage for us!

Plot:

Rumple has a test coming up and he has not studied very hard. In fact he doesn't know anything about science at all! Also, he and his friends are challenged to make a science show, ABOUT EVERYTHING! Including the Big Bang, atoms, protons, neutrons, meteor showers, evolution, and planets. Luckily his tutor is there to help him, even if he can be a little bit silly sometimes.

Students will join them on this voyage across the universe from mountains to the ocean, from the beginning of time and into the future.





What We Have Learnt From the Drama



• The Big Bang

It is a theory that illustrates the formation of the universe.

• Atom

An atom is the smallest unit of matter that retains all of the chemical properties of an element.

• Meteor Showers

A meteor is a space rock that enters the Earth's atmosphere. There is a myth of meteors – people tend to believe that if they make a wish during a meteor shower, their dreams will come true.

• Planets

There are more planets than stars in our galaxy. Currently, eight planets are found in our Solar System, namely Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

• Earth

Earth is one place that is inhabited by living things and contains liquid water on the surface. Most importantly, it is our home planet.



Students' Comments

★ It was a super exciting show which explored different scientific principles. There were a lot of magical effects such as fire, smoke, and crazy potions!

★ The show was enjoyable! It brought the boring scientific principles to life.

★ The actors and actress gave a very vivid description of the ideas. It was easy for me to follow even though they spoke English! I am not scared of English now!

★ My favorite character was Timmy the Trainer. She was so funny. I want to be a funny guy as well.





English Day

Four seeming ordinary days were actually far from ordinary. Each of them bore a distinguishable name – the English Day. Four themed Science, Teachnology, Engineering and Mathematics were held this year to let our students explore different subjects through a variety of activities, like board quiz, morning assembly, book exhibition and the English channel broadcasting. The English Days presented our students with a great opportunity to learn English in a fun way!





Hong Kong Schools 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 performance.





English Week

The third week in January 2019 was no difference from any other time slots on the calendar. We were braving the winter humid and chilly weather. Yet it was a drastic difference if looked from another perspective. The week from 14th to 18th January was the spotlight of the English Department or to be more precise, the focus of whole school – the annual English Week.

STEM was the theme of this year as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are growing increasingly





important to both the individual and society. It is essential that our students gained a vast and profound knowledge through a series of activities such as game booths, book exhibitions and LCTV broadcasting creating a STEM environment where was attractive to our students.

It is our hope to help them improve student engagement and real world relevance to inspire them to be problem solvers and innovators. It will also ensure they gain the skills and competencies needed to go into future STEM careers.



Hong Kong Secondary Schools Debating Competition

The English Debating Team is a platform in which students can sharpen their debating skills and discover their potential in debating through participating in various debating competitions and mock debates. Our speakers learn their critical thinking, researching and writing skills through the provision of training and by joining debating tournaments. For the first time, our Debating Team got into the semifinals for HKSSDC and won a trophy! Through taking part in various debating activities, students are able to gain a global perspective and increase social awareness.



Students' Essays

Hello from Hong Kong

From: sue20050108@gmail.com

To: cherry123@gmail.com

Hi Cherry,

How are you doing? I am just writing to tell you about my school.

My new school has a playground. We can run and play basketball there after school. There is a big library on the fourth floor. We can read and use the computers inside. It is great.

There are a lot of subjects. My favorite ones are English, History and Science. In Science class, we can do lots of experiments.

The school clubs I wanted to join were the Dance Club and the Sports Club. But now, I am in the Chinese Club.

I like the teachers. They are kind and nice. I don't like the lunch boxes because they are unpalatable! What is your school like? Write and tell!

Yours,
Lydia

2A Lydia, Su Jiawen

The Perfect Picnic Look!

Next month we will have a school picnic. Students can wear their school uniforms. You can also wear causal clothing. Here are some ideas that may help you to choose the clothing.

Be comfortable!

Students should wear comfortable sports clothes such as a T-shirt and waterproof trousers. If the weather is cold, remember to bring a windbreaker or a jacket with you. If it is raining, you should bring a raincoat. For the shoes, you need to wear trainers because we will have lots of outdoor activities.

With all these useful ideas, you can now put together the perfect picnic look. It will be interesting to see students wearing causal clothes. I hope you will have a perfect picnic look.

3A Annie, Lau Fei

Awesome Charity Sale for the Homeless

Not long ago, our school Social Services Club held a Fashion Star Charity Sale at the school gym. It ran on Saturday. It ran from 10 am to 7pm. I participated in the event to help raise money for the homeless.

On the day of the event, all students and teachers were involved. Every booth was full of clothes and accessories for sale. There were abundant people in the bazaar. There were many goods, such as scarfs, gloves and hats. Nobody would stop promoting their goods, which were donated by guests. It was very lively. At my booth, there were many sparkling accessories, such as bracelets, dazzling earrings and well-designed necklaces.

Many accessories were waiting to be selected. 'Get some accessories to match your clothes so that you can be more attractive!' I said to a woman since she had been looking at my booth for a long time. Then she said, 'No one can sell these things to raise enough money to help the homeless to have their own place. It is difficult.' I explained to her that I knew these little things could not make a lot of money unless we did our best. The homeless were often ignored in our society. When heavy rain and strong wind were coming, they had to stay outside to suffer from the terrible weather. If we had enough money to help them, they would have a place to live in. In the end, she came round and I was also grateful to her for helping us to raise enough money.

Many people said it may be time-consuming to do volunteering. Looking at it from a different perspective, I have learnt care for the poor in society and spread my spirit to others to help the homeless together. Therefore, I think the event was the most successful since it has collected over 1000 dollars. I hope everyone will get involved in charity events, which are really beneficial and meaningful.

4A Doris, Li Xinyan

A Silent Voice (2016)

A touching and meaningful story which you must watch.

Rating: ***** Suitable for: Teenagers

Reviewed by: Anson Wong

A Silent Voice is a 2016 Japanese animated teen drama produced by Kyoto Animation, directed by Naoko Yamada and written by Reiko Yoshida.

This animation is about Ishida Shouya and Shoko Nishimiya, a deaf girl. Both of them are primary school students but Shoko Nishimiya is a new student. She draws Shouya's attention because she is deaf. At first, everyone in the class treats her as a normal person and she also tries to be ordinary. However, as time goes by, her classmates think she is upsetting the class equilibrium and she starts getting bullied. Shouya is the one who bullies her the most and the other classmates either join in or are bystanders. No one is willing to help Nishimiya.

One day, a teacher stops ignoring the problems of bullying in the class. He asks the whole class who bullied Nishimiya. No one raises their hands or admits to it but they all single out Shouya as the culprit. His friends betray him even though they used to bully

Nishimiya. From then on, Shouya becomes the one who gets bullied and ignored. Nishimiya also leaves the school. A few years later, Shouya learns sign language and he meets Nishimiya. He asks her a question with sign language. They slowly become friends and they also meet their primary school classmates.

I am in love with A Silent Voice because this is not only a story that talks about a girl who is deaf getting bullied but is also about a boy who makes a mistake and he wants to change himself. Sometimes we think we have not made any mistake but still get scolded. Also, Shouya does not feel guilty and does not feel sad when he bullies her. However, when the class's bullying is directed towards him, he understands and realises what the feeling of getting bullied is like.

I would recommend this film to teenagers. It is inspiring and meaningful. We have all done something wrong during teenagehood but we do not want to face it. I think this movie can make you confess it courageously. You cannot find a better animation than this, can you?

4B Anson, Wong Man Fung

Happiness Is Being Thankful

What is happiness? Different people have different ideas. Some people are rich, they are happy. Other people may think that if they help others, they can be happy. But I am not sure whether I can be as selfless as these people. Happiness for me is just being able to protect the people who are important to me.

My parents are the most important people to me because they gave me life. So, no parents, no me! My parents are at the top of my heart. Thinking back to my childhood, when I was sad or in trouble, my parents would cheer me up. They are like a lamp which lights up my growing path. If they can be healthy forever, it will be my best wish.

Teachers are like gardeners, I am the flower. They teach me knowledge and the truth in life. I am thankful to them.

My friends are the people who I share fun and sadness with. They are power to my growth.

If one day I have the power to make my dream come true, I won't forget these people and I will be deeply grateful to them. This is the happiness for me, my unique happiness.

4A Zheng Jiemin

A Trip to Inner Mongolia

A month ago, I went on a trip with the school delegation during Easter holidays. Our destination was Inner Mongolia.

We needed to fly to Huhhot on the first day. This was my first time to take a plane. I heard that flying was more comfortable than taking bus. Now I have experienced it once and I don't think so. However, I was quite satisfied with the entertainment and other services on the plane.

The itineraries arranged in Inner Mongolia on the first two days were the most interesting. The scenery was also the most attractive. I was amazed by the wide views of the grasslands and deserts. My favourite activity was the campfire party on the grassland. That night, everyone was truly released. Everyone was dancing to the rhythm and had a group dance around a campfire. This activity helped me develop good relations with the others. It also made me realise the simple happiness of Mongolian people.

We spent the next three days mainly visiting museums. To be honest, the arrangements of those three days only made us bored. In particular, some of the explanations were indistinct so that my travel experience was affected. But there was plenty of delicious food every day that made me happy.

Anyway, this trip made me aware of many cultures and histories. I was especially glad to have had a pleasant and unforgettable Easter holiday with this group.

5A Kary, Liang Kailin

'I want something just like this!!!'

Riches of Achilles, the strength of Hercules, the self-control of Spider-Man or the power and fury of Batman. Have you ever dreamt of 'Something just like this'?

Something just like this is a song by the American electronic duo The Chainsmokers and the British rock band Coldplay. It was released in February 2017. When you read that, you guys might say 'Chris! This was released 2 years ago!' Chill, my dudes. No matter what you think about this song. I make you love it. You will love it so much that you cannot stop yourself from listening to it, looping it again and again. It was nominated for the Best Pop Duo/ Group Performance at the 60th Annual Grammy Awards.

Of course a song may sound great but if it does not mean anything, that is all it is – a good sound. Thankfully Something just like this does have a deep, emotional meaning, if not a mysterious one. To be honest, the story is very straightforward and realistic. It represents the dream every child has in their childhood. After listening once or twice, you will get it.

I like this song because it is simple and sweet. The cover is a picture of a young man pretending to be a superhero and I think this fits well because many people want to be a superhero, but it may be awkward to think of once you're an adult. Their adulthood reminds them that superheroes are not real and they are not one. But the song tells us that we can be superheroes, not to save the world, but to save the ones we love, to be guardians or to be protectors.

It is a sweet and powerful song, certainly. I think worth listening to. I hope you enjoy Something just like this by The Chainsmokers and Coldplay.

5B Ace, Wong Yu Kai

Should Cyberbullying be Treated as a Crime?

Cyberbullying should not be treated as a crime while bullying in reality is not? It does not make sense. Reality bullying is much more serious than virtual. A real bully spreads negative gossip, talking about other people's privacy, saying irritating words to victims, body assaulting someone and squeezing their necks tightly. Compared to this, cyberbullying is only about saying some hurtful and calculated speeches. Above all, this cannot persuade me to consider it a crime. Apart from that, the Internet is only a platform for people to say what they truly think. In society, people's speeches, like political speeches, ethical issues and so forth are often repressed. They have to shut their mouths in the daytime, but at night time when people go back home, they can release their emotions in the cyber world. People surf into different discussion forums and start dishing the dirt freely and limitlessly. They say anything they like online. It is defiantly an entertainment for every netizen. But if cyberbullying is treated as a crime, netizens might stop criticizing because they all are afraid to commit a crime without knowing it. And from then on, no one would be willing to tell the truth, or call a spade a spade. And there would be no more freedom of speech in the world. That is why I object to cyberbullying being treated as a crime.

6A Ngo Fung

A Report on Child Poverty

In recent years, child poverty in Hong Kong has become more and more serious. According to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report, the child poverty rate is 18 percent which means that about one in five children is living in poverty. What are the reasons behind this phenomenon? What should we do in Hong Kong? This report aims at elaborating on the problems and providing feasible solutions to alleviating child poverty.

First of all, cross-generation poverty is at the root of child poverty. A little while ago, Hong Kong parents set off a craze – asserting that their children should win from the start, but that does not include parents who are poor. Children whose parents are unable to provide sufficient resources for them are living in poverty. Poor children are less competitive when they are competing with children who start leaning when they could barely read or write. There is no way for them to get rid of poverty.

Another effect of child poverty is that it brings inequality of educational opportunities. Traditional elite schools tend to take students who contribute to the school's reputation or development. Therefore, unless children who are living in poverty excel academically, they compete for places with children from wealthier families. But the general situation is that most of the poor children find it difficult to excel like rich children because of insufficient educational resources. As a result, they can only study in ordinary schools, and they

even leave school early because of financial matters. This affects their job opportunities, creating a vicious cycle.

With reference to the above phenomenon, suggestions to eliminate child poverty will be provided: To start with, the best way to alleviate child poverty is through education. Only education can improve their lives. The Education Bureau should allocate adequate resources to nurture students, especially poor students. The government should greatly assist poor students to develop skills beyond schools. Also, it is needed to help students who cannot afford further education to attend other vocational training so that they can develop in other fields.

Additionally, the government should do more to lift the parents of poor children out of poverty. The government needs to work hard to get them into public housing as soon as possible in order to reduce their financial burden. Furthermore, charities can set up foundations to support poor children to develop, study and provide their parents with funds to support their families in a timely manner by a simple application process.

If we can help them in time, those poor children will not remain poor even though their parents are poor. They have the right to a life and chance like other children.

6A Ivory, Lui Lok Yi

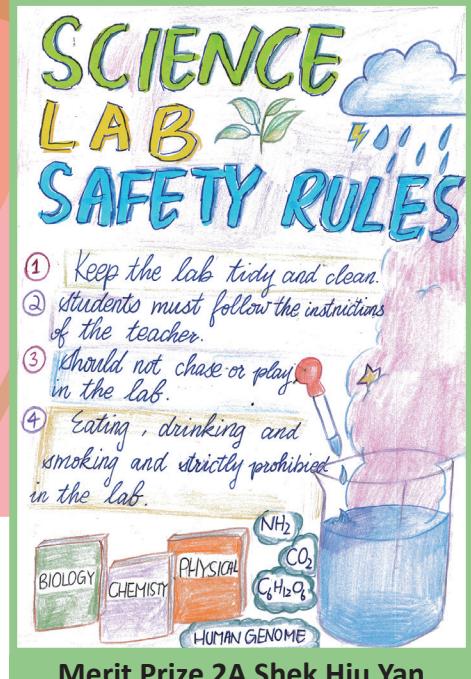
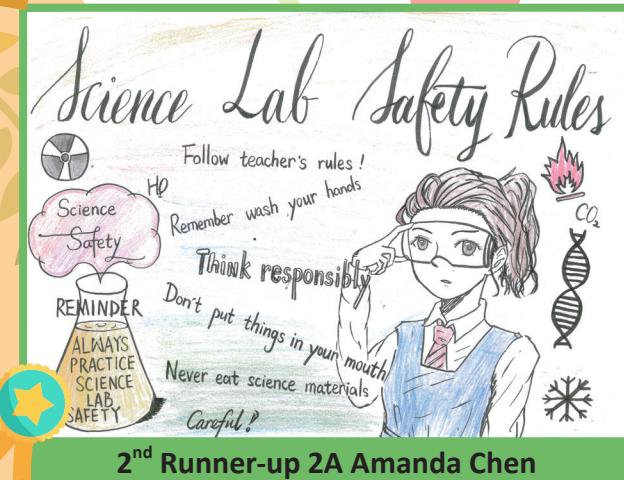
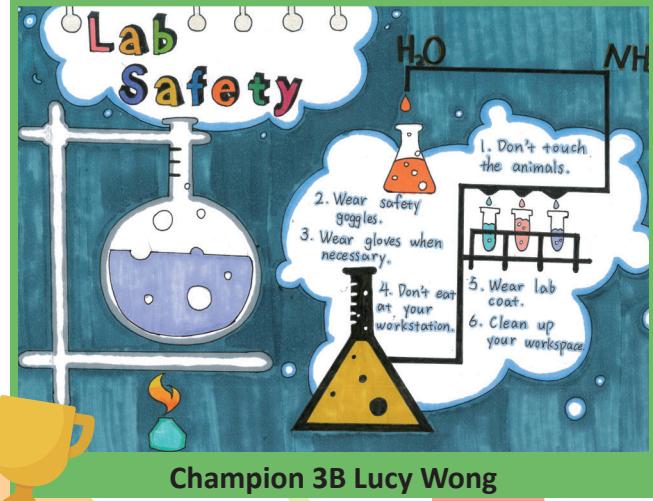
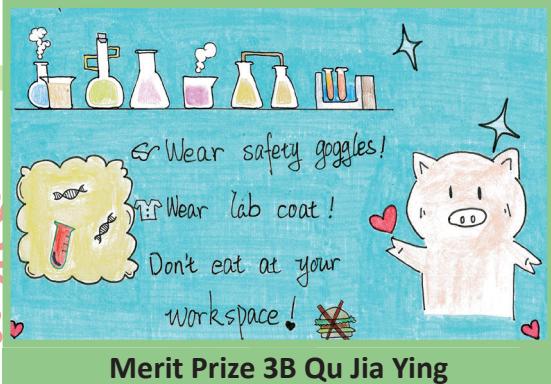
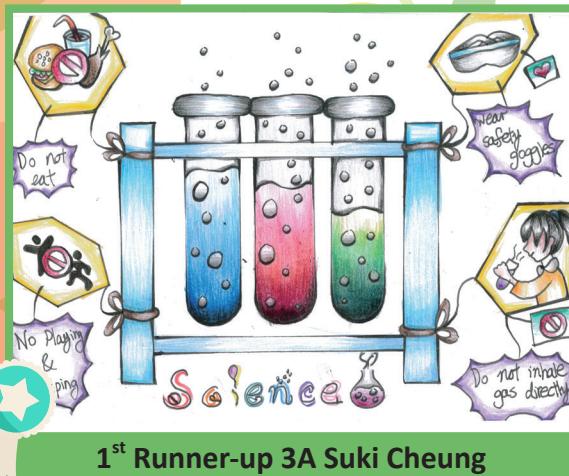
Card Design Competition 2018 - 2019

Junior Form : Science Lab Safety Rules

Champion: 3B Lucy Wong

1st Runner-up: 3A Suki Cheung

2nd Runner-up: 2A Amanda Chen

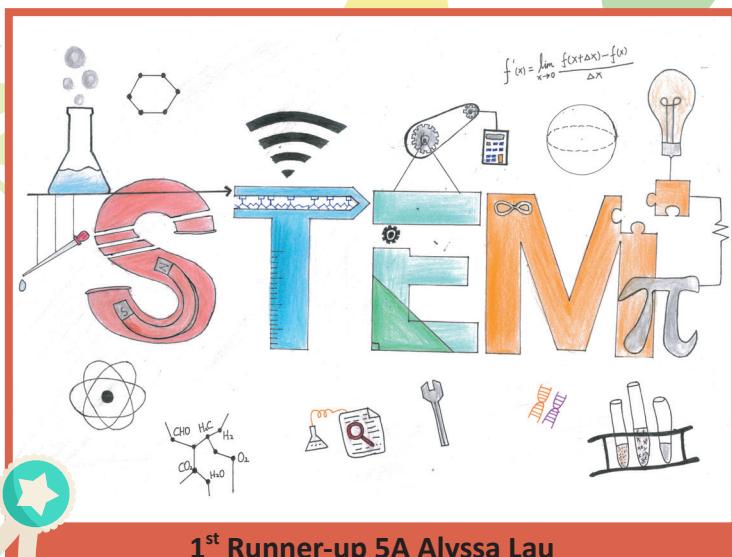


Senior Form : STEM

Champion: 4B Max Xu

1st Runner-up: 5A Alyssa Lau

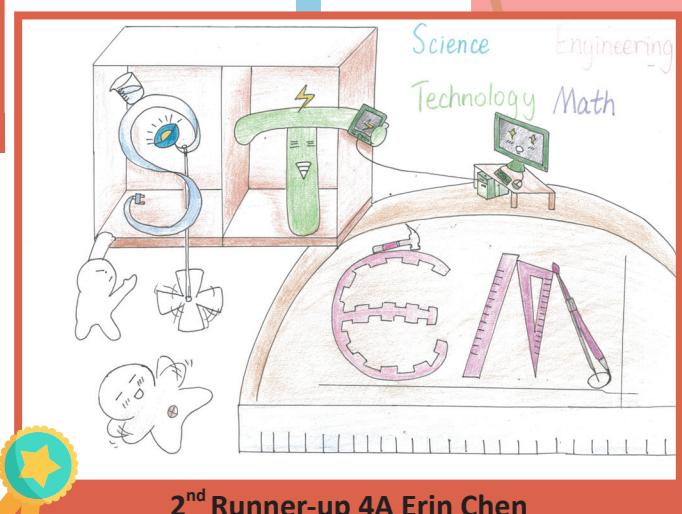
2nd Runner-up: 4A Erin Chen



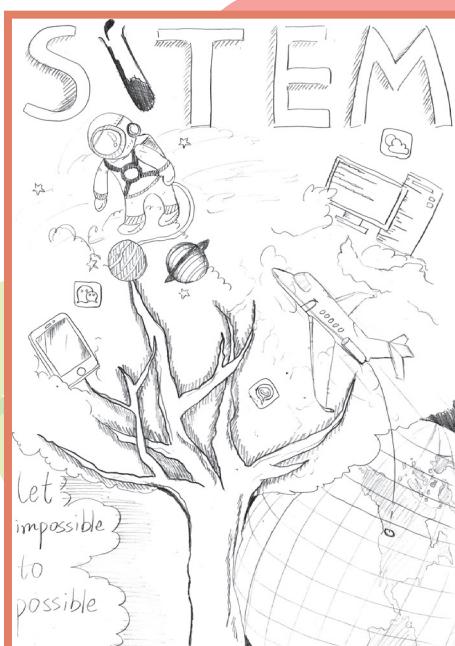
1st Runner-up 5A Alyssa Lau



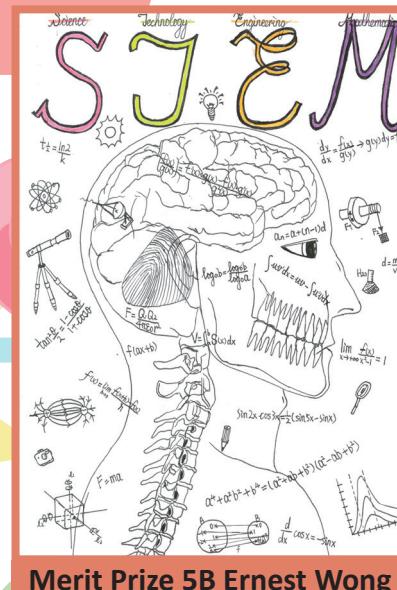
Champion 4B Max Xu



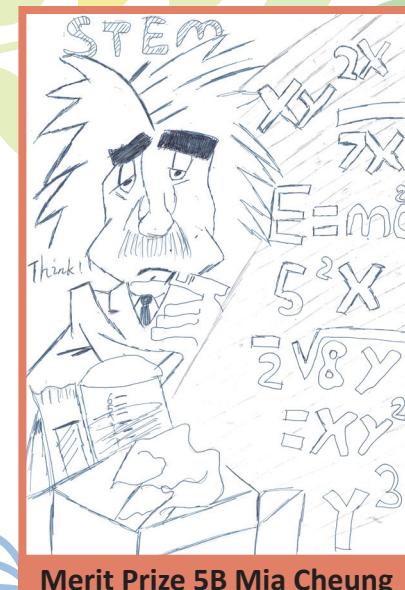
2nd Runner-up 4A Erin Chen



Merit Prize 4A Esme Zhang



Merit Prize 5B Ernest Wong



Merit Prize 5B Mia Cheung

Learning English Through Social Issues - the Amazon Fires

What Happened in Amazon Forest Recently?

The Amazon fires have become a hot topic in the world after the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released a series of photos regarding the damages of Amazon this summer. Smoke nearly covered half of the Brazilian territories and eventually spread to the nearby countries, including Peru, Bolivia and Uruguay. Consequently, uncountable species have been affected by the fires and humans are no exception. In particular, they are not isolated incidents in Brazil. More than 74,000 wildfires were recorded this year alone in the Amazon Rainforest, which is an 84 per cent rise from the previous year. Approximately 640 million acres of rainforest has been affected by the fires.

Until now, the public can not reach a consensus on the dominating cause of the fires. Some environmentalists have put the blame on the government policies, which threatened the forest and led to presence of **deforestation**. Some researchers argued that instead of natural factors, human activities, like farming, ranching, mining and drilling, exacerbated the situation and paved the way for the fires. By contrast, the opponents claimed that the fires were resulted from dry season in Brazil and considered it as 'an inevitable and unanticipated accident'.

Nevertheless, both parties agreed that further actions have to be taken to reduce the rate of fires, minimize the influences incurred from these incidents, and more importantly, to prevent these incidents from happening again.

Hints:

Deforestation refers to the clearing of forest areas by cutting down the trees. The contributing factor of deforestation is to make more land available for human uses, namely cattle ranching, farming and urban development.





Why Do the Amazon Fires Matter to Us?

Contrary to the countries surrounding Brazil or some European nations, many people turn a blind eye to this issue as the Amazon areas are far from Hong Kong and hence the influences on us are relatively limited currently. However, as the areas are 'lung of the world', none of us can be free from the impacts of the Amazon fires.

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world. Some of its functions are to absorb carbon dioxide and slow down **global warming**. Such a massive loss of trees in the Amazon Rainforest make it harder for the Earth to mitigate climate change and eventually we, ourselves, will suffer from it.

Hints:

Global warming refers to the phenomenon of an increase in average temperature of the Earth over time.

What Can We Do to Protect the Earth?

In order to protect and keep our homeland away from such incidents, a lot of things can be done by every one of us.

First of all, as a consumer, we can purchase rainforest – safe products and reduce the use of paper and wood. Also, we can reduce our beef intake because it is known that beef found in processed products and fast-food burgers is often linked to deforestation. While there is less demand, the supply of beef or wood products would be lowered responsibly.

Secondly, as a global citizen, we can support related organizations fighting against deforestation such as donating money and joining their forestry projects.

Last but not least, we should keep an eye on such issues and be aware of the consequences of our actions. Many environmental problems often continue to occur because of lack of awareness and knowledge about them.

Actions speak faster than words. Let's take action now!



Environmental Issues



Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden and .

ACIDRAIN
AIRPOLLUTION
BIODIVERSITY
CATTLERANCHING
CLIMATECHANGE

DEFORESTATION
GLOBALWARMING
GOVERNMENT
OVERPOPULATION
RECYCLING

REFORESTATION
URBANIZATION
WASTEDISPOSAL

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4A Doris, Li Xinyan

4B Anson, Wong Man Fung

5A Kary, Liang Kailin

6A Ivory, Lui Lok Yi

3A Annie, Lau Fei

4A Zheng Jiemin

5B Ace, Wong Yu Kai

6A Ngo Fung