

# Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

## **At a Glance**

The primary English panel works closely with the Library on a variety of collaborative reading programmes.

The first reading programme sees our Grade 6 students reading to the Grade 1's. The Grade 6's, together with their diligent English teachers, have worked hard on perfecting their storytelling skills. They have taken suitable books home and practised reading them out loud to one another.

Take a look at some of the photos of the classes who have already participated! The photos are in the last section of PEN – AROUND CAMPUS.

Other collaborative reading programmes include doing research on the plants and animals of the rainforest for the Grade 4's and having the Grade 5 students read to the Grade 2 ones.

Welcome to the first issue of PEN for the 2013/14 academic year. For our new parents and students, PEN is our Primary English Newsletter and it is uploaded onto the school website on the first Friday of every month.

In PEN, the teachers in primary English write about what's happening in the English classrooms at every grade level. These entries are supplemented with students' writing, a Teacher Feature and photos taken from around the school campus.

In this issue of PEN, the G1's have been busy settling into the routines of school life, while the Grade 3's have been 'travelling' to different countries; the Grade 4 students invite you to 'walk' with them in a tropical rainforest and the Grade Sixers learn about the value of equality and Human Rights.

There is also a significant entry detailing the fun workings of the English Performing Arts programme.

Mr. Lo, our new deputy principal, writes an adventurous article for us in the Teacher Feature; and we have a very special student entry from Marcus Tsang.

I hope you enjoy reading PEN!

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms. Jennifer Lopez

Primary English Panel

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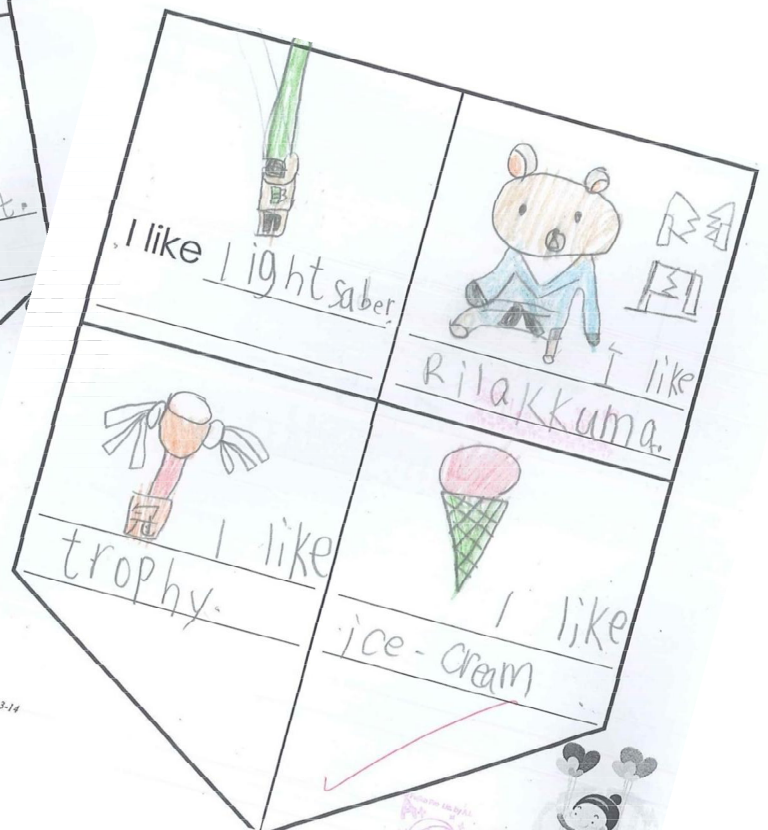
# Grade One

## What do you like?

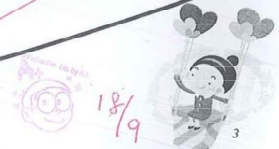
During the first two weeks of school, the Grade One children introduced themselves to their friends in class. They shared with their friends different things that they like through drawing pictures and writing them down in their LAB (Learning Activity Book). Let's have a look at what they like! ☺



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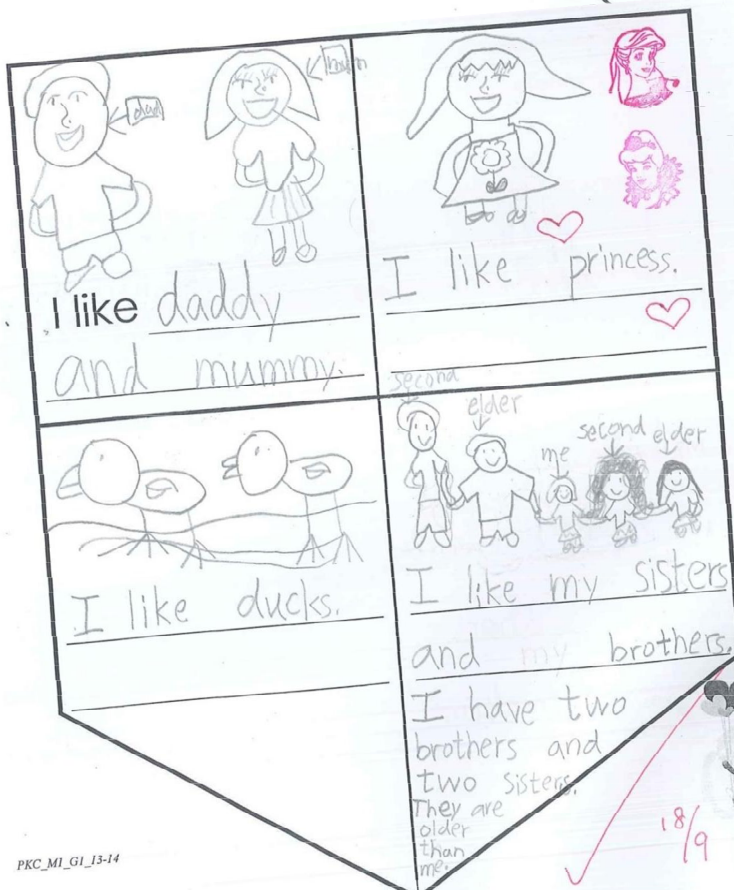


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# Festivals around the world

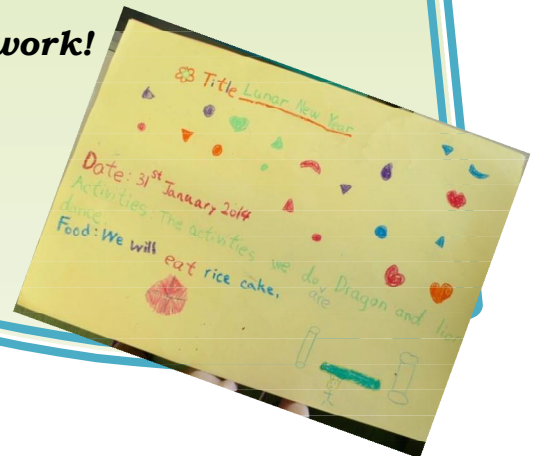
***Our Grade 2 students are currently learning about different festivals around the world.***

***A festival is a day or time to celebrate a special occasion. People usually gather together and celebrate with each other, for example, they will have a big meal with their family members and friends; they will put up festive decorations; they will even carry out different rituals.***



***There are numerous festivals in the world, like Christmas, Halloween, Mid-Autumn Festival and Easter. The G2 students picked one of their favourite festivals and made a poster about it.***

***Let's have a look at their work!***





## Grade Three

# Different Countries



**Did you go to any interesting countries in the summer break? How much do you know about that country?**



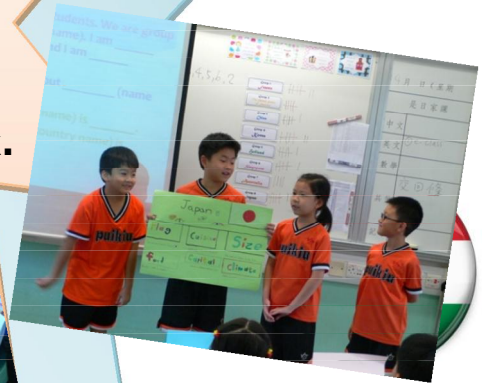
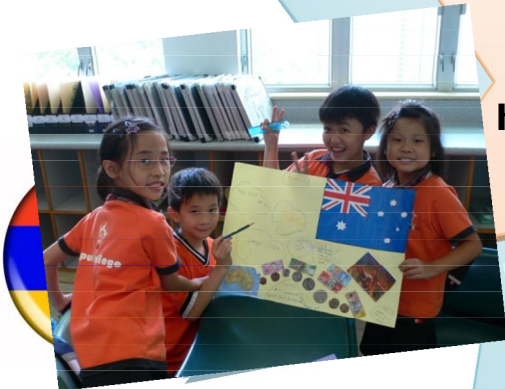
**At the beginning of the term, our G3 students started to learn about countries around the world. They had to do some research on one of their favourite countries and then create a poster about it.**



**Through the learning process, students learnt more about the currency, the population, the weather, the culture as well as the language of that country.**



**What are our G3 students' choices? Let's have a look at their work.**



## Grade Four

# TAKE A WALK IN THE RAINFOREST

The Grade 4 students can very confidently tell you what you would probably see were you to go for a walk in the rainforest.

"Trees, many trees!" - Kiki Kong

"Mud and cockroaches." - Gordon Cheung

"Flowers and jaguars!" - Oscar Cho

"Tarantulas and crocodiles!" - Frank Ng



The Grade 4's are not only exploring the tropical rainforest now, but they have also learnt more about planet Earth - its rotations, tilts, continents and oceans.

Plus, they have been honing their research skills by finding answers to questions like: Which is the biggest continent? Which is the deepest

ocean? Which is the biggest country? And so on...

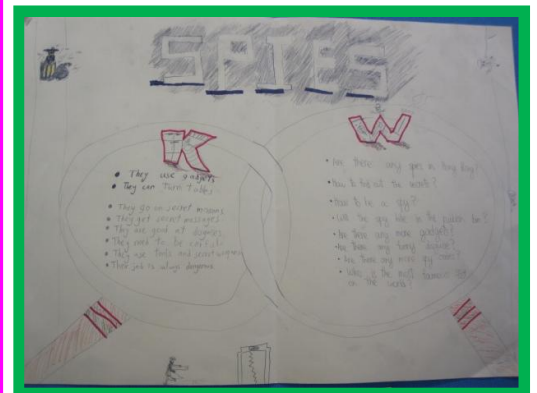
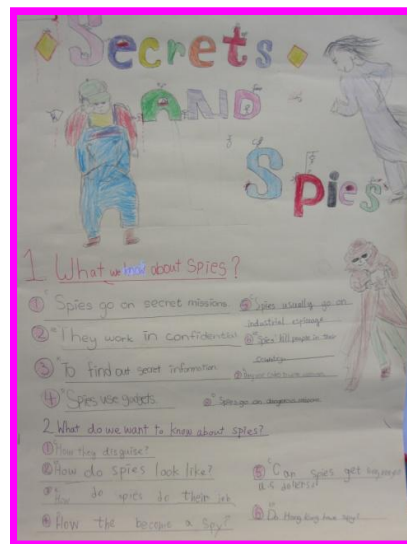
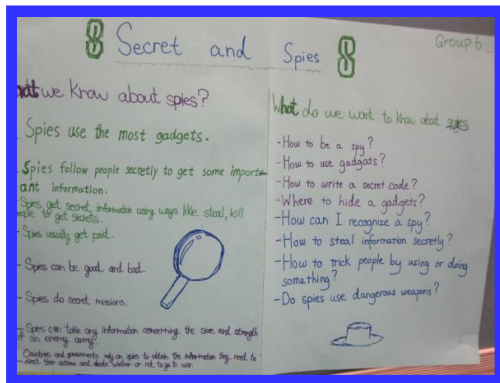
Students have worked on information boards and KWL (Know-Want to Know-Learnt) charts to show what they know about the rainforest. In addition to the rainforest and planet Earth topic, the students are also hard at work on their grammar and spelling lessons.





# Grade Five

The Grade Five students kicked off the new academic year with an exciting topic “**Secrets and Spies**”. They have been immersed in the spy world in the past few weeks. At the beginning of the module, students created a poster in groups showing what they know and what they want to know about spies. They presented their poster to the class and came up with many interesting questions. They are curious about how gadgets work, how much spies earn and if there are any spies in Hong Kong and so on. They are going to find the answers as the module progresses.



Students also paid a visit to the library to get more information about spies.



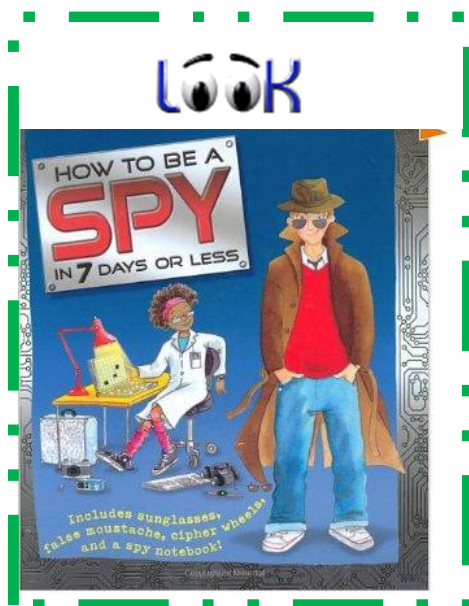
Our fifth graders are currently learning how to be a spy in 7 days (or less). Yes! Just **7 days**! Students have learnt different ways of disguising and how to follow people without being noticed. They are going to learn some tips for sending and decoding secret messages. How exciting! ☺

Are you interested in being a spy as well? If yes, answer the questions below to see whether you have what it takes to become one.

1. Do you like finding out secrets?
2. When you've learnt a secret, can you keep it?
3. Are you good at blending into a crowd?
4. Can you creep about very, very quietly?
5. Do you always do your homework?
6. Do you like dressing up, and using cool gadgets?
7. Can you keep calm in a sticky situation?

*(Taken from "How to Be a Spy in 7 Days or Less")*

If you answered "yes" to all the questions, it means you are a natural-born spy! Congratulations! You are welcome to join our fifth graders to go on missions! Gear up and let's go!



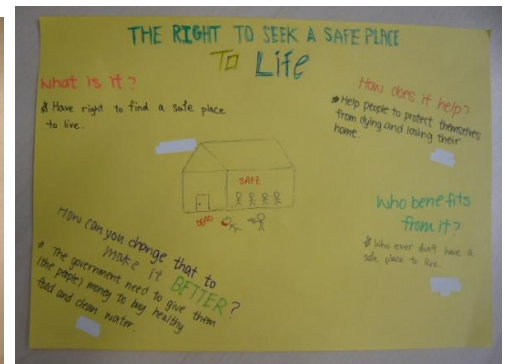
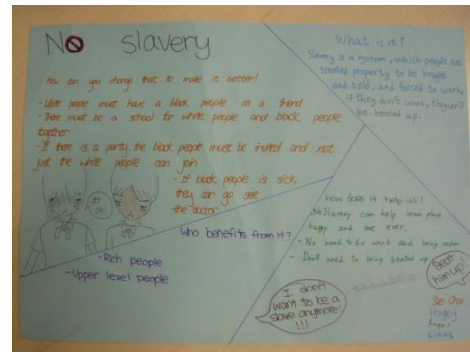
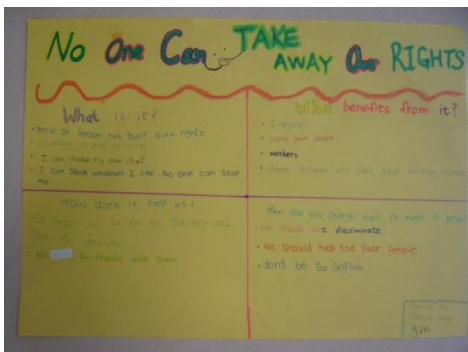
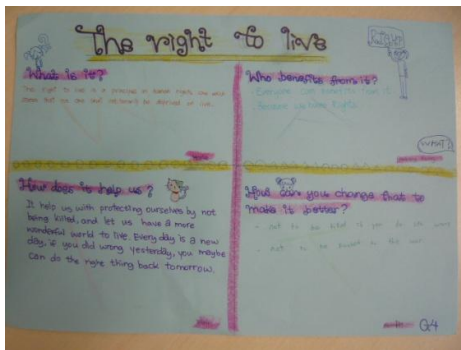


# Grade Six

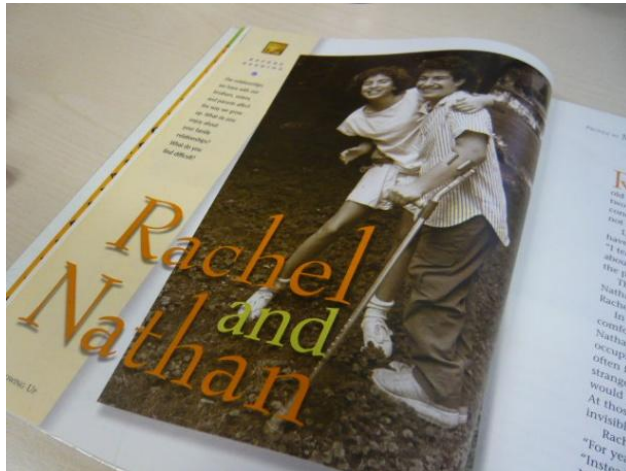
## Different People – Same World

Welcome to our first module in Grade 6, Different People – Same World! Look around you now! You probably see people with different skin colours, people who speak different languages and people who have different preferences. But should we treat people who don't share the same interest, same religion and same race differently? Everyone is different and everyone is special. We should not discriminate against anyone but respect every single individual.

Our Grade 6 students started off this module with learning about Human Rights. In groups, they researched and created a poster on one Human Right. They also presented their work to their classmates.



Later on, we moved onto “discrimination”. We learned about different forms of discrimination and their negative impact on our society. We read a true story about a pair of siblings, Rachel and Nathan. Nathan was born with a spinal problem so he had to walk with crutches. Rachel felt that Nathan's disability affected her a lot and the story tells us how she dealt with it throughout her life.



We will be reading a few famous people's stories later in the module and learning about how they changed the world to make it a fairer and better place.



# English Performing Arts (EPA)

**English Performing Arts (EPA)** is a wonderful way to learn English as it offers fun and stimulating language learning experiences.

EPA provides your child with an invaluable way of gaining specific skills and disciplines in voice, singing, dance/movement and drama. It focuses on students' talent, in addition to teaching them new techniques to enhance their performance. Students also learn new skills such as mime and debate.

Debates can be an effective method of enabling students to take an active part in their own learning through the preparation and presentation of their own work and that of their peers.



Grade 1 and 2 EPA is integrated with English Language modules.

In Grade 3 EPA lessons, some basic performing skills are introduced to the students. In Grades 4, 5 & 6 they will have an in-depth study of different skills such as drama, music, voice and dance/movement. Students can learn these four components in one year.

Let's have a look at their different lessons.

## **Drama**

Drama builds confidence. Even the shyest of children take just a few weeks to gently build up their self-esteem. The students





enjoy the activities so much, that there were times when they forgot they were learning through play. Drama activities greatly improve their language fluency and confidence.

In Drama, our students experience a range of drama activities through the context of life, traditional and fairytale stories.

### **Music/Singing**

Music is an easy and fun method through which one can learn and improve language skills. Through the music videos and lyrics of some famous songs, students can improve their English language skills.

Some of the songs learnt in EPA include 'The Lion King', 'The Little Mermaid' and 'Mulan'. Through these songs, students learn good enunciation, use appropriate emotions, phrasing and practise basic staging techniques.

### **Voice**

In voice, students learn how to use their voice to convey artistic expression. Not only loud and clear voices are needed. Students are also taught to use their natural voices through the singing of simple songs and recitation of poems.





## **Dance/Movement**

Dance is a natural method for learning and a basic form of cultural expression. Children learn movement patterns as readily as they learn language. In Grade 3 and 4, students are taught to be consistent in the quality and use of their skills to improvise and extend movement ideas on their own and with others. We use different kinds of music to stimulate their minds. They also learn to create movement spontaneously when presented with movement ideas or problems.



# Student Writing Feature

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## **A trip to Yulin to help deaf children** by 5C Marcus Tsang

This summer, I flew a long way to Yulin in Nanning, Guangxi of China with a medical volunteer group. The group, including my father who is a doctor, aims to help people with ear problems.

First, we went to Yulin's Special School for the Deaf. When we arrived at the Special School, we were warmly welcomed by the teachers and students. The moment I set foot in the classroom, the clapping of the hands roared upon the classroom, making my ears ring. Then my dad delivered a speech about our aims and what we could do to help. After we settled down, I took out a pump and started pumping and twisting balloons into crowns, swords and different animals to comfort the children. While at the other end of the room, my dad used an echoscope to examine the students' ears and gave advice to the parents and teachers. The students could get one of my balloons after checking. They were excited about the balloons which they blast off like fireworks after a while. I was happy to have my little sister to help me give out the balloons and biscuits. The children ate happily so that the cracking sound of the biscuits filled the room. We stayed there for almost two hours. When we finally got ready to leave, I was surprised that they had made souvenirs for us. Our souvenirs were animal toys hand-made with shimmering beads by the children. Happily, the teachers took a picture with our group and we hurried off to our next stop, the Yulin Red Cross Hospital.

When we arrived at the hospital, my dad sped off to the operating room. Whilst my dad was doing operations, my sister and I tried on the surgical gowns and played with our tiger souvenirs. At the end of the day, the group did surgeries for more than ten patients.

At last, our volunteer group finished the job and we started our trip back to Hong Kong. I felt great about this trip because my dad helped the children improve their hearing and I brought some happiness to the students in the special school. It was a very meaningful journey.



# Teacher Feature

## Vice-Principal LO Fu Kow

Mr. LO is our new vice-principal, but he is also an adventurer! Let's read his story of about how ...



## “I OVERCAME MOUNTAIN SICKNESS!”

The plane carrying my 18-member group, including my wife and friends, landed in Linzhi County. Coming in from Chengdu, Sichuan, our new altitude was 2900 metres up! We tried to adapt to the low oxygen plateau before we took another plane, flying to the capital of Tibet: Lhasa, with an altitude of 3600 meters.



### Fact:

The higher you go, the less oxygen is in the air.

Located on the Qingzang Plateau, Lhasa is regarded as an extreme living environment for human beings. High altitude, low air pressure and low oxygen level all easily caused mountain sickness, with symptoms of tiredness, weakness, headache, sleeplessness and accelerated heartbeat, which can develop into pulmonary edema and cerebral edema, or even result in death.



### Edema:

Extreme swelling of the body, caused by fluid building up under the skin.

In order to overcome possible mountain sickness, we stayed alert and slowed down our pace. We also lightened our load, such as by using lightweight cameras. On our first night on the plateau, we

wiped ourselves clean instead of showering and we even avoided washing our hair. Throughout the whole journey, our team arranged for a doctor to check our blood pressure and measure our blood oxygen level every day. We were advised to take medicine if necessary.



After going through much shaking and trembling, most of us successfully overcame mountain sickness, including me. Unfortunately, two members suffered acute mountain sickness and had to receive treatment in a local hospital. I'm lucky I got through it!



## Location of Tibet in China





# Around Campus



Our Grade 6 students were reading storybooks to our Grade 1 students during their library lesson.



They become good friends after the storytelling time!







Attending the first monthly assembly...



The End