

# PEN

PRIMARY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

## FOREWORD

Can you feel the temperature dropping? Do you notice the leaves turning colour? Can you feel the air getting drier? Can you guess what time of year it is? Fall, or autumn, has finally arrived. By now, our fall season has begun with the First Term Break and Halloween, and soon, another highlight will be here: English Week! It may be called English "Week", but actually there are two weeks of non-stop English merriment. So, mark your Handbooks!

11<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> November will be Activity Week. For these five days, throughout each day, there will be games, challenges, quizzes, contests, and so many other exciting events brought to you by the English Teachers. 19<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> November will be Performance Week, featuring the talents of our sensational Second Graders and thrilling Third Graders. Come and watch the speaking, singing, dancing and acting skills students have been honing throughout their EPA lessons and enjoy the shows.

In the meantime, sit back and delight in our second issue of PEN, in which we also proudly feature our new teacher, Teacher Alice!

Happy reading, everyone!

**BY TEACHER ARVIN ROBLES**  
PANEL HEAD, ENGLISH

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AND THREE



GRADES FOUR, FIVE,  
SIX AND SIX PLUS



EPA



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AROUND THE CAMPUS

# Grade One

Our First Graders are having lots of fun in English lessons. We are currently learning about "Our Family".

## **My Family**

*Families can be big,*

*Families can be small.*

*I think my family is the best of all.*

*My sister is funny, my brother is silly,*

*But both are very friendly.*

*My father and mother are tall,*

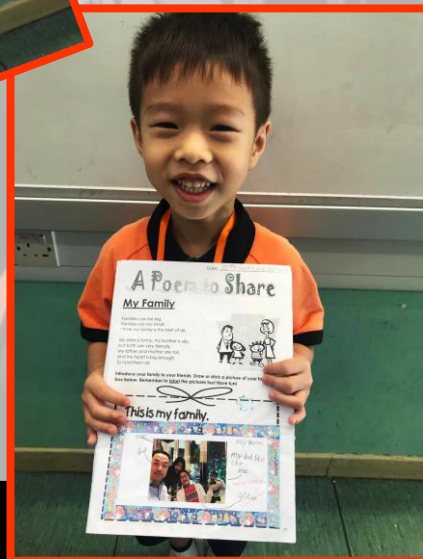
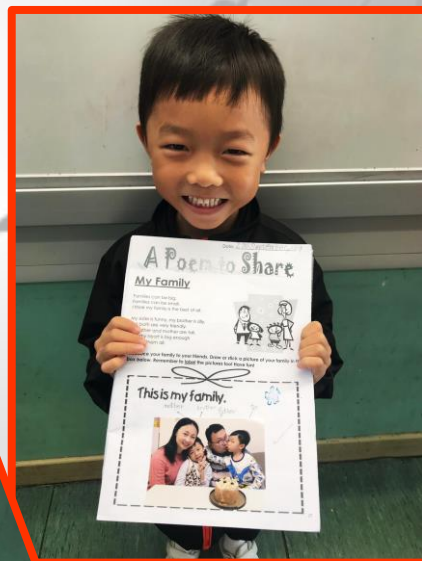
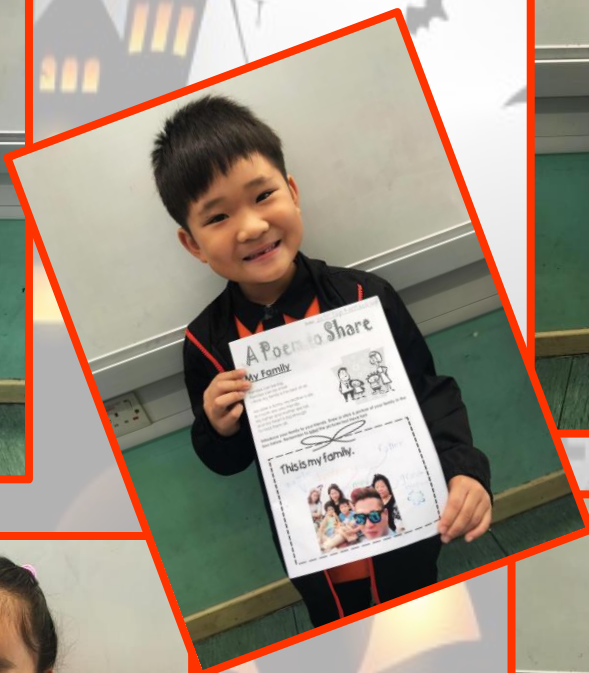
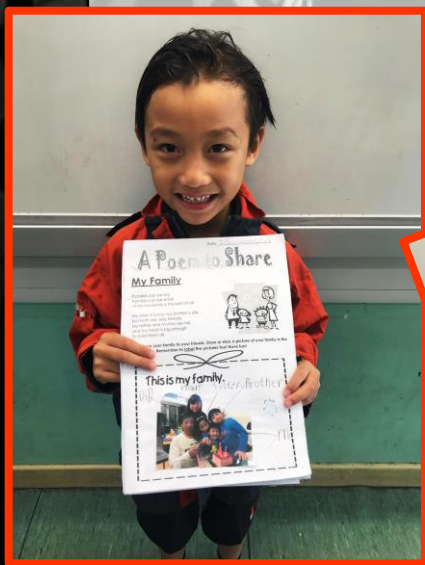
*And my heart is big enough*

*To hold them all.*



We introduced our family members to our classmates. We showed a picture of them and described them in sentences.

For example, "This is my family and I live with them. My dad wears glasses and works at a bank. He comes home late so I only spend time with him on the weekends. My mom looks after my sister and me. My mom is kind and she likes buying shoes. I share a bedroom with my sister, Kathy. She goes to PKC too! Sometimes, she teaches me how to do my homework. I love my family!"



# Grade Two

The Grade Two students have been having lots of fun learning about different festivals around the world. They were absolutely fascinated by the interesting ways people celebrate in different countries, such as Cinco de Mayo in Mexico, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland and the International Balloon Fiesta in New Mexico!

Among all festivals they have learned, Halloween is definitely the festival that they adore and look forward to the most.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, we had a mini-Halloween party, which featured some trick-or-treating. They also used the vocabulary related to Halloween to play games with their friends and teachers.







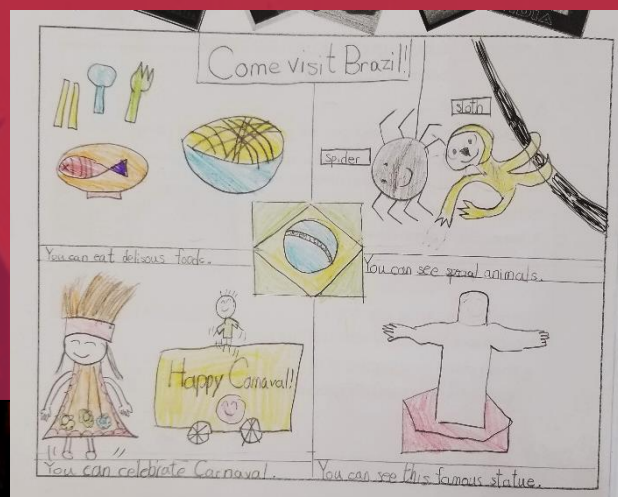
# Grade Three

This month, the Third Graders have been working in groups to complete their Module 1 Project: creating an information board about a foreign country to present to the class.

In order to complete this project successfully, they have needed to put their research skills to the test to find out about their chosen countries. Furthermore, they have needed to use the reading skills, summarising and reformatting, to turn the information that they find into something useful for their information boards.

To practise using the reformatting skill, the Third Graders have been completing tasks in which they pick useful information from their readers and use different methods to display it in an easier-to-understand manner. As well as using mind-maps and Venn diagrams to display information, the students have seen how pictures can be used to display information in an interesting and fun way too.

In the examples below, the Third Graders have turned information that they have learnt from their Brazil reader into pictures that can educate people about the country and encourage them to visit.

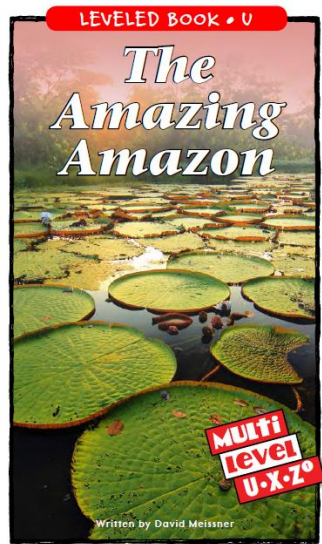









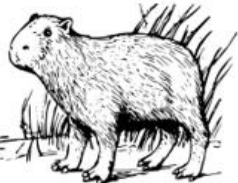


# Grade Four



We have been reading the book “The Amazing Amazon” in class recently. This book covers a lot of fun facts about the rainforest. The RAZ interviewer also interviews a howler monkey, jaguars and leaf-cutter ants. It is interesting and we get to know more about different plant and animal species.

We are also approaching the end of Module 1. It is going to be project time soon! In this project, students are going to perform a short skit by interviewing an animal in the rainforest. They are going to write the script by themselves and show us the “interview” in class in November. We really cannot wait to watch the performances! 😊

| The anaconda  | The poison tree frog  | The tapir | The sloth |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|
|  |  |           |           |
| The spider monkey   | The capybara  |           |           |
|  |  |           |           |





## ☺ Preparation Time in Class ☺





# Grade Five

In Module 1, the Grade Five students have been learning about famous spies in history and the techniques that spies have used to hide and deliver secret messages and confidential information.

But did you know that there are many simple ways that even children can use to hide a message? Why don't you test out some of the following methods to see how well they work?

## Morse Code

|             |           |               |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| A · -       | N - ·     | 1 · - - - -   |
| B - · · ·   | O - - -   | 2 · - - - -   |
| C - · · · · | P · - · · | 3 · · - - -   |
| D - · ·     | Q - · - - | 4 · · · - -   |
| E ·         | R · · ·   | 5 · · · · ·   |
| F · · · ·   | S · · ·   | 6 - · · · ·   |
| G - · ·     | T -       | 7 - · · · ·   |
| H · · · ·   | U · · -   | 8 - - · · ·   |
| I · ·       | V · · · · | 9 - - - · ·   |
| J · - - -   | W · - -   | 0 - - - - -   |
| K - · -     | X - · · · | · · - · · · · |
| L · · · ·   | Y - · - - | , - · - · · · |
| M - -       | Z - · · · | ? · · - · · · |

Morse code might look like a series of dots and dashes, but it has been used to transmit both emergency and secret messages quickly over long distances since the early 1800s.

To this day, people can send out an SOS using Morse code almost anywhere in the world and expect responders who see or hear it to understand that the sender needs help. It is for this reason that planes and boats still send out SOS signals during emergencies if their communication equipment fails or the people on board don't share a common language with local responders.

You can use either a flashing light or tapping/beeping sounds to transmit a message using Morse code, with the long flashes or beeps representing the dashes and short flashes or beeps



## Ciphers

A cipher can be used to encode messages and make them unreadable to anyone who doesn't share the same cipher. Probably the most famous cipher machine was the Enigma Machine, which was developed and used by the Germans during WWII. However, anyone can create a cipher to encode and decode messages.



The Grade Five students made letter cipher wheels to make messages unreadable. But you can just as easily turn messages into numbers or symbols using ciphers. See if you can work out how to use this pigpen cipher to decode the secret message below.

|          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>J</b> | <b>K</b> | <b>L</b> |
| <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>O</b> |
| <b>G</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>P</b> | <b>Q</b> | <b>R</b> |
|          |          |          |          |          |          |
|          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>T</b> | <b>U</b> |          | <b>X</b> | <b>Y</b> |          |
|          | <b>V</b> |          |          | <b>Z</b> |          |

VOLL JEFF CEF

FJJJGT >NGV

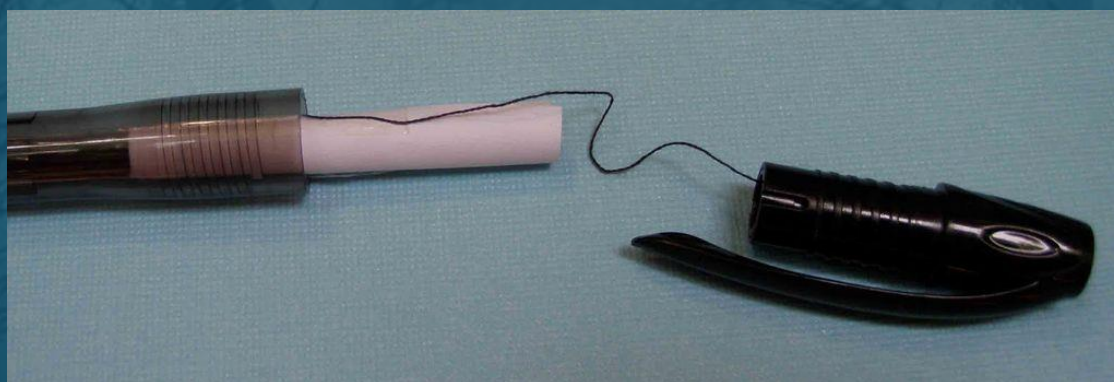
JJVVJG

V<LLVV<LL<



## Dead Drops

Dead drops are used to conceal messages, documents or items, such as money or USB sticks, so that they can either be passed from one person to another inconspicuously, or so that they can be hidden in a public space allowing a delivery from one person to another to take place without the people ever needing to meet face-to-face. You can easily make your own dead drops at home. An openable pen can easily be used as dead drop to conceal written messages on small pieces of paper, or an old book can be hollowed out and used to conceal larger items.



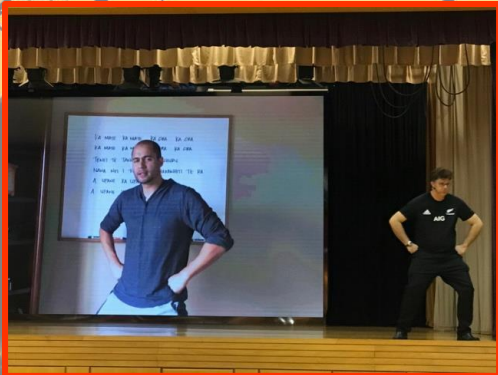


# Grade Six

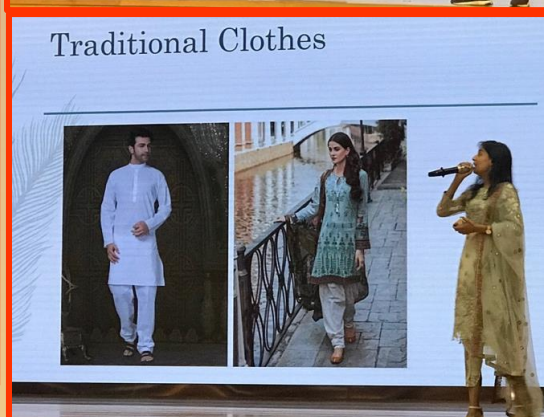
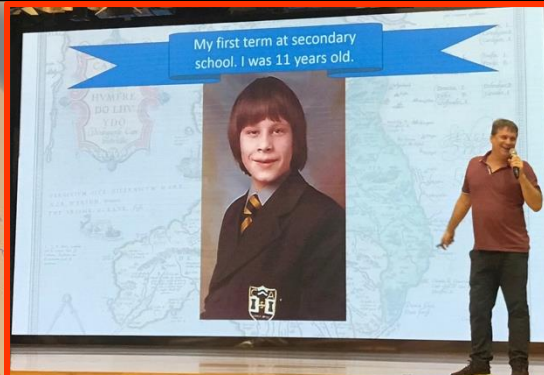
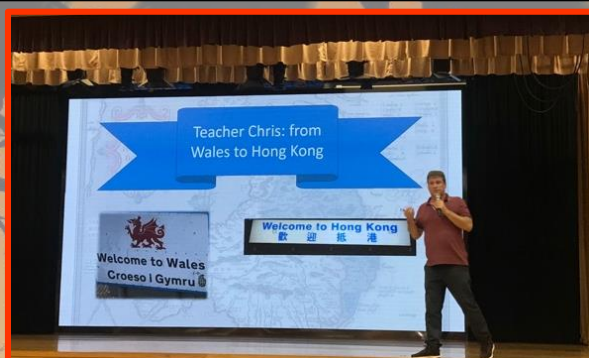
Our Sixth Graders were privileged to attend two informative talks that were closely linked with the first module, "Different People, Same World".

First, we were very delighted to invite some international members of the English Panel who shared with us a wide variety of information, ranging from food to traditional dance, clothing and culture. The Grade Six students also had a chance to learn the longest Welsh word, the Haka chant and even join a dance. What a fun experience! A special thanks to Teacher Thomas, Teacher Philip, Teacher Chris, Teacher Almas and Teacher Robles! =)

By looking at the pictures, do you know where they come from?







So as to deepen our understanding of human rights, we welcomed a guest speaker from Amnesty International Hong Kong, who spoke on “Child, Gender and Human Rights”. It is upsetting to know that some children still suffer as child labourers today, having to work more than 20 hours a day in a mine.

Students learnt that every individual is equal, regardless of their gender. We should support equal opportunity in order to maximise our potential for personal and global development. Most importantly, respect is the core concept of human rights.



**Answers: Teacher Thomas: Greece & Ireland; Teacher Chris: Wales; Teacher Philip: New Zealand; Teacher Almas: Pakistan; Teacher Robles: The Philippines**



# Grade Six Plus

Recently, the Six Plus students had a chance to share their love of reading with their Grade One brothers and sisters. A proud tradition celebrated with the School Library Team, the “Collaborative Reading Programme” allows the First Graders to get inspired and invigorated to read more in English. The students had such a wonderful time together. The Six Plus students initially read to the First Graders, then the First Graders showed off their passion for reading by reading aloud together *with* the senior students – talk about “Teamwork”! The session ended with lots of interactive storytelling and physical games related to the books shared that day.

Check out some fantastic moments in the library from the photos below.







# EPA

Our First Graders literally cheer when they see 'EPA' on the schedule. The integration of their English curriculum into the EPA lesson can both serve as a valuable source of language input and also tap their special talents and interests.

It's always an exciting experience for Grade One. They enjoy every moment of EPA lessons – playing games, singing songs and practising their dancing. They also learn how to express themselves, create a performance and do self-reflection as part of their SRL.



Grade One students sing and dance and have a wonderful time!





Students are practising dancing in the EPA lessons.



Later this year, they will have the opportunity to put into action all their new-found talents during English Activity Week and English Performance Week.





# Ms. Alice Lam

## Featured Teacher

Hi everyone! I'm SO glad that I have this wonderful chance to be the featured teacher of this month's PEN! Hope you'll enjoy reading more about ☺ ME ☺

To start off, I am the youngest and only daughter in a family of 10 people - my parents, my eldest brother and sister in-law with their 5-month-old baby boy (my youngest nephew), my middle brother and sister in-law with their two sons, who are 5 and 7 now. Here is my favorite and cutest photo when I was probably just about a year old or so and the other one is my family picture taken a few years ago.



I've also been asked quite a few times where I am from. Let me tell you here! The answer is... 🇨🇦 CANADA! 🇨🇦 Well, to be exact, I was born here, but I grew up in Toronto and spent most of my childhood there. Then last year, I also went to Brisbane (Australia) for further studies and graduated as a Master's student! That's what's made students confused.



## SPORTS IS MY LIFE!

As you may already know by now, I'm a sports lover! I enjoy outdoor activities A LOT! When I was young, I played softball most (which is similar to baseball) and was part of the school team as well as other leagues outside of school. But in the past few years, I've started to be more active in cycling! I started off with mountain biking and now, I'm a road cycling enthusiast. Last year, I *\*succeeded\** in achieving *\*my BIGGEST CHALLENGE\** when I completed a 100km ride in 5 hours 15 minutes!



I also like other sports, such as basketball, athletics (60m, 100m, long jump and high jump), dodgeball, volleyball, badminton and lots more. So, feel free to come and find me for a fun game of sports! I'll be more than happy to take on an *\*EXCITING CHALLENGE\** with you all ☺ After all, as much as I love being a teacher, it's important to be **WORKING HARD & PLAYING HARD!!**





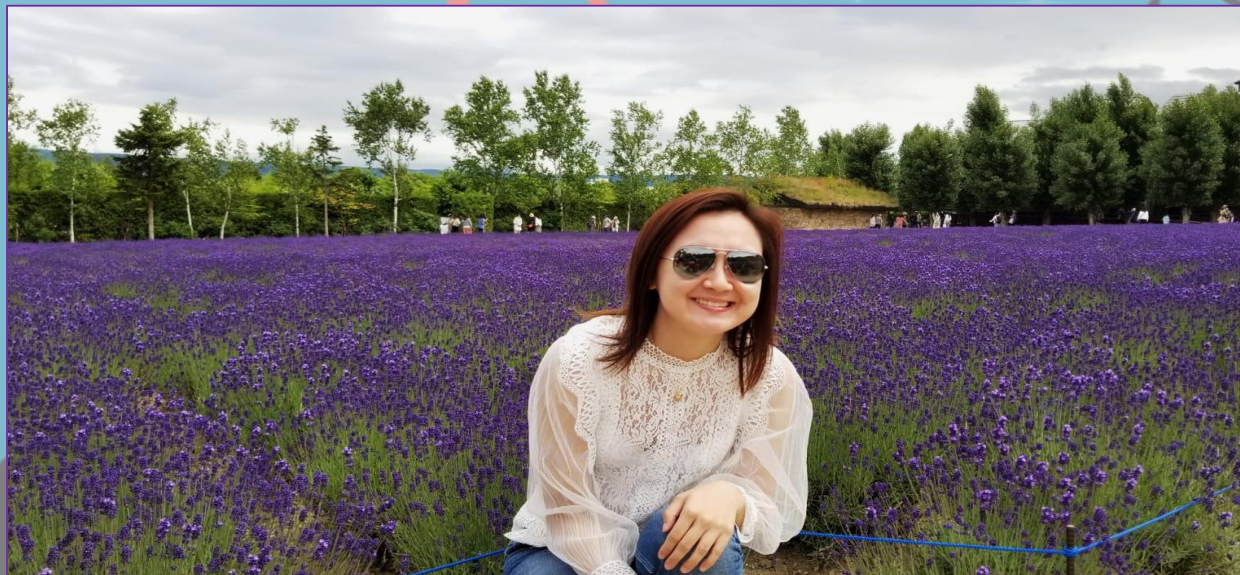
## TRAVELLING HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE!

Other than sports, I also like travelling. My favourite landmark is the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France and I'm so happy that I \*finally\* had the chance to visit it 2 years ago during summer. Can you see how excited I was from my picture?



I've been to other places, too... including Japan, Europe, USA, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore and more. You can probably tell that my favourite colour is \*\*\*PURPLE\*\*\* and I was lucky to visit 2 \*purple\* flower festivals - the very beautiful ✨ *Jacarandas* ✨ in Brisbane, Australia and the ✨ *Lavender* ✨ in Hokkaido! Aren't they just lovely?

Likewise, I'm looking forward to getting to know you all as well, so come and have a chat with me to share your interests & adventures!





# GET BOOKED!

Have you been asking yourself... 'What's happening in the library?' 'What's that big board in front of the library?' 'Have I been missing out on some mind-boggling activities? Some astounding stories?' If you have not been to the library recently, then the answer is YES! YES, you have been missing out on mind-boggling activities and YES, you have missed some astounding stories!



## Storytelling!

As part of the Reading Across Curriculum activities that have been taking place at school, mystery teachers have been turning up every Tuesday during lunch recess to tell stories about Planet Earth! These stories have left students wanting more; and books about our planet and the environment have been flying off the shelves. Do go down to the library and be part of the magical experience of being lost in a story...



## Our Wonder Wall

Have you seen our Wonder Wall outside the library? Have you contributed to it? Pick up a marker (choose the colour you like!), grab a sticky note and write your answer on it. Then stick the note under the chosen question. Look at our Wonder Wall – we're counting on you to help cover it in answers! ☺



# FACTS & TRIVIA

A shrimp's heart is in its head.

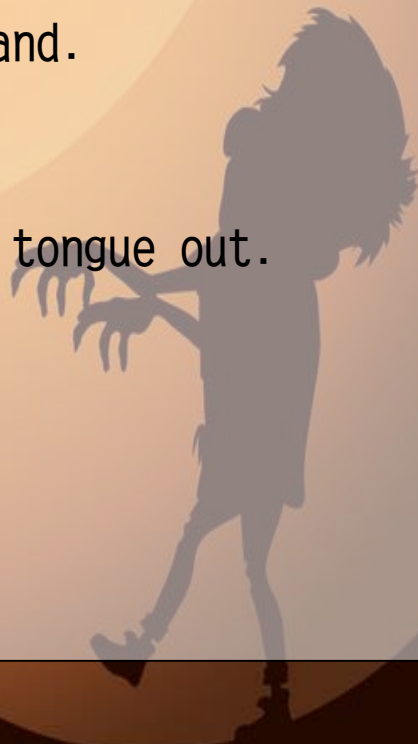
Almonds are a member of the peach family.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

Most people fall asleep in seven minutes.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.





# JOKES & TONGUE TWISTERS

**What did the left eye say to the right eye?**

Between us, something smells!

**What did one plate say to the other plate?**

Dinner is on me!

**What is a witch's favourite subject in school?**

Spelling!

**What kind of tree fits in your hand?**

A palm tree!

## Tongue Twister

I wish to wish the wish you wish to wish,  
But if you wish the wish the witch wishes,  
I won't wish the wish you wish to wish.



# AROUND THE CAMPUS









# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



PUI KIU COLLEGE  
培僑書院