

3rd December, 2021



PEN

PRIMARY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

FOREWORD

And just like that, we have reached the last issue for the year! 2021 has been such an exciting ride. Through great perseverance, the world has been returning to a "new normal". With more and more people vaccinated, 2021 saw the return of face-to-face classes, the re-opening of cinemas, theatres and theme parks, and "staycationing" becoming the most popular family holiday.

There is no better time than December to express our gratitude for all that we have. With the holiday season upon us, let's take a moment and tell those around us how much we appreciate them. How fortunate are we to have our health, our home, our family and relatives, our friends, our classmates and teachers. All together, we can persevere through all our struggles and look forward to a joyous and promising 2022.

In the last **PEN** for 2021, enjoy some recent photos taken from English Week and don't forget to check our Google Classroom for the daily videos. Read up on the end-of-Module 1 updates from our Grades One to Six Plus, who also provide our Featured Writing this issue.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Primary English Team, we wish you and your families a MERRY CHRISTMAS and A FANTASTIC NEW YEAR!

TEACHER ARVIN ROBLES
(PANEL HEAD, ENGLISH)

What is your favourite month of the year?

December is always one of my favourites. Not only because of the fabulous Christmas decorations you can put up and the fun parties you can go to, but also it is a good time to reflect on how well we did and what improvement we can make for the coming year. Let's welcome the last month of the year with the lovely faces and wonderful work from our students.

TEACHER PHOEBE YEUNG
(DEPUTY PANEL HEAD, ENGLISH)

IN THIS ISSUE

GRADES ONE, TWO
AND THREE



GRADES FOUR, FIVE,
SIX, SIX PLUS AND EPA



ENGLISH WEEK



FEATURED WRITING



FUN FACTS



JOKES AND RIDDLES



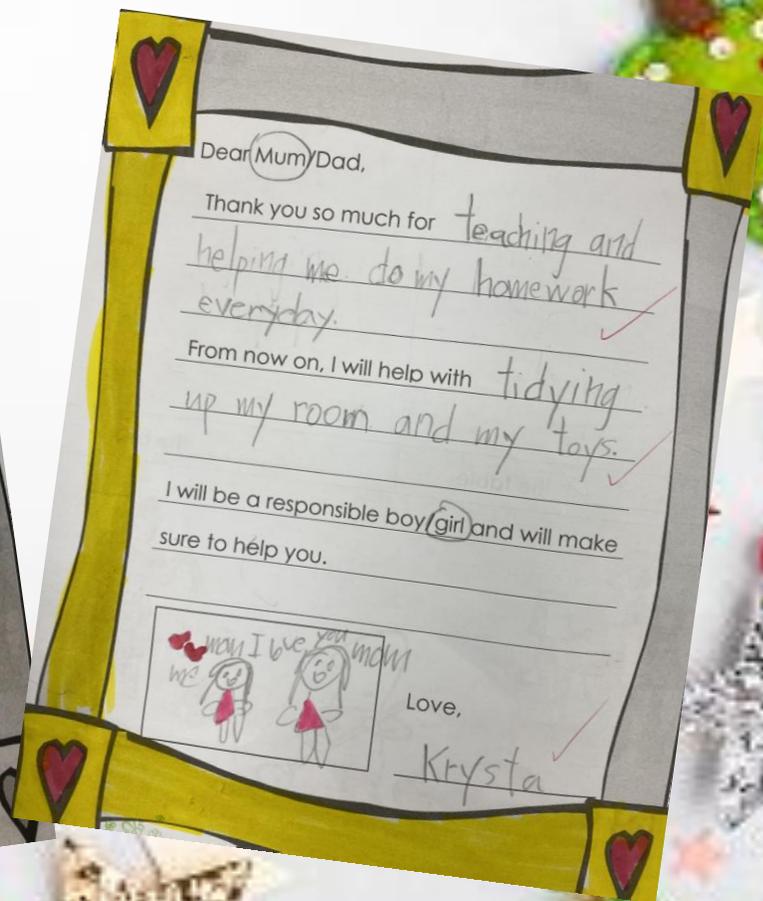
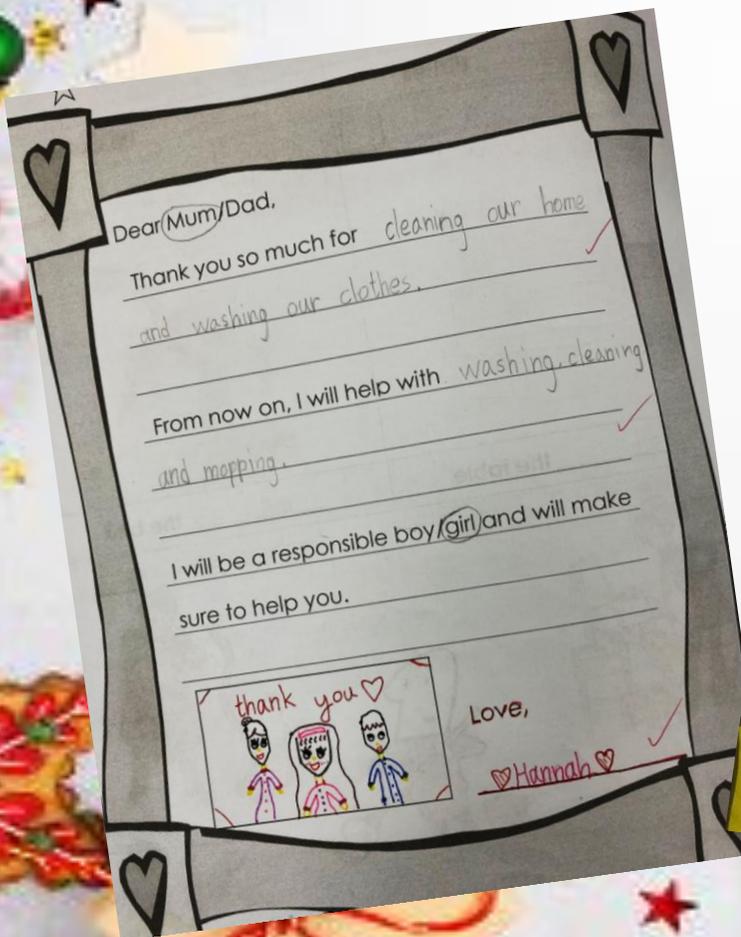
AROUND CAMPUS

Grade One

Grade One students have been learning all about being a **housework smart-ie**. They have been learning how to use verbs to describe the different housework that people do.

To show their appreciation for all the housework that people do for them, our students wrote a letter to say "**THANK YOU**" to their mum, dad or anyone who helps keep the house clean and tidy.

Do you do any housework to help your mum and dad? Don't forget to say "**THANK YOU**" to the people who cook for you and make your bed every day.



Dear Mum/Dad,
Thank you so much for taking care
of me. ✓
From now on, I will help with sweeping
the floor. ✓
I will be a responsible boy/girl and will make
sure to help you.

 Love,
Chloe Chan ✓

Dear Mum/Dad,
Thank you so much for cooking lunch
and dinner for me. ✓
From now on, I will help with cooking
lunch. ✓
I will be a responsible boy/girl and will make
sure to help you.

 Love,
Chloe Qin ✓

Dear Mum/Dad,
Thank you so much for taking care
of us. I know that you
are hard-working for the business. ✓
From now on, I will help with my younger
brother Anson. We will learn
to do the housework. ✓
I will be a responsible boy/girl and will make
sure to help you. Daddy, don't be
too tired. ✓

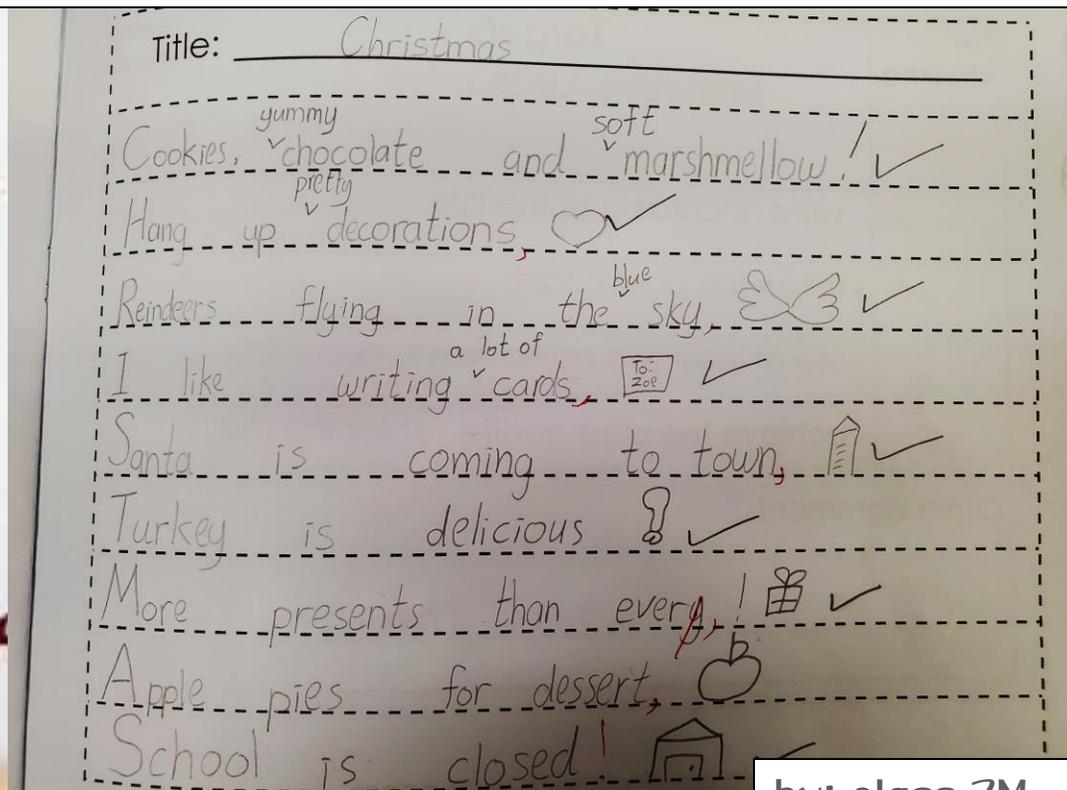
 Love,
Adam ✓

Grade Two

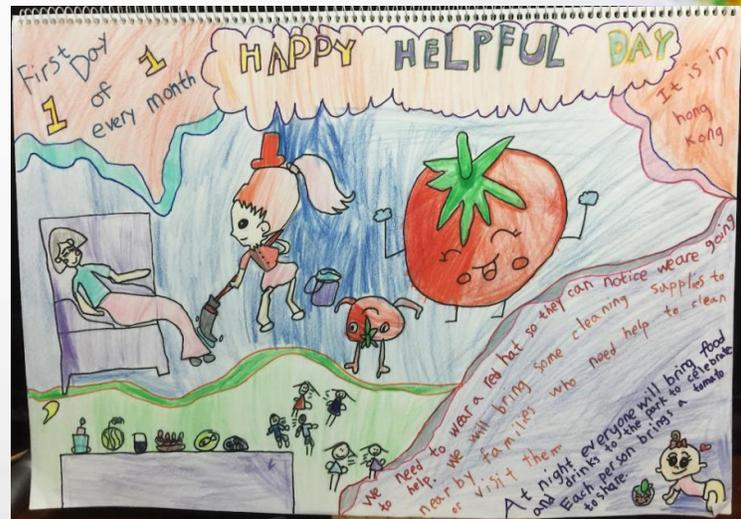
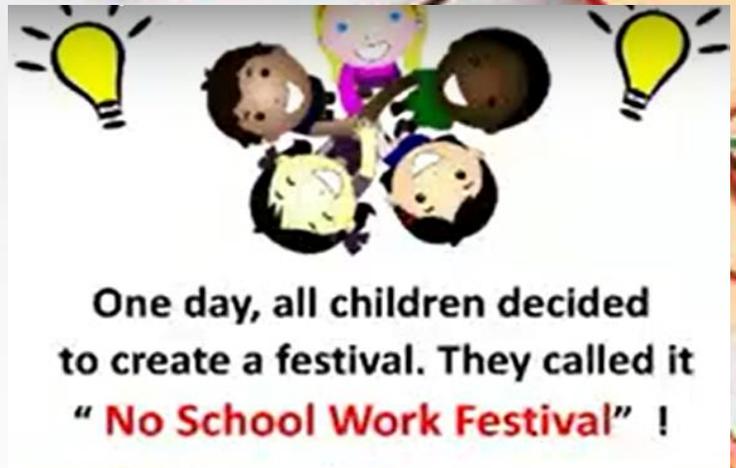
In Grade Two, we are learning to write **acrostic poems**. Acrostic poems are simple poems in which the first letter of each horizontal line forms a word or phrase vertically. An acrostic poem can describe the subject or even tell a brief story about it.

After writing our poem, we drew a lovely illustration to go along with it.

As the topic of Module 1 is **Festivals Around the World**, we have written acrostic poems about our favourite festivals. And since **Christmas** is coming soon, here is one about it:



We have also submitted our Module 1 **projects**. We designed **our own festival** and made a video presentation about it. Here are some from class 2W:

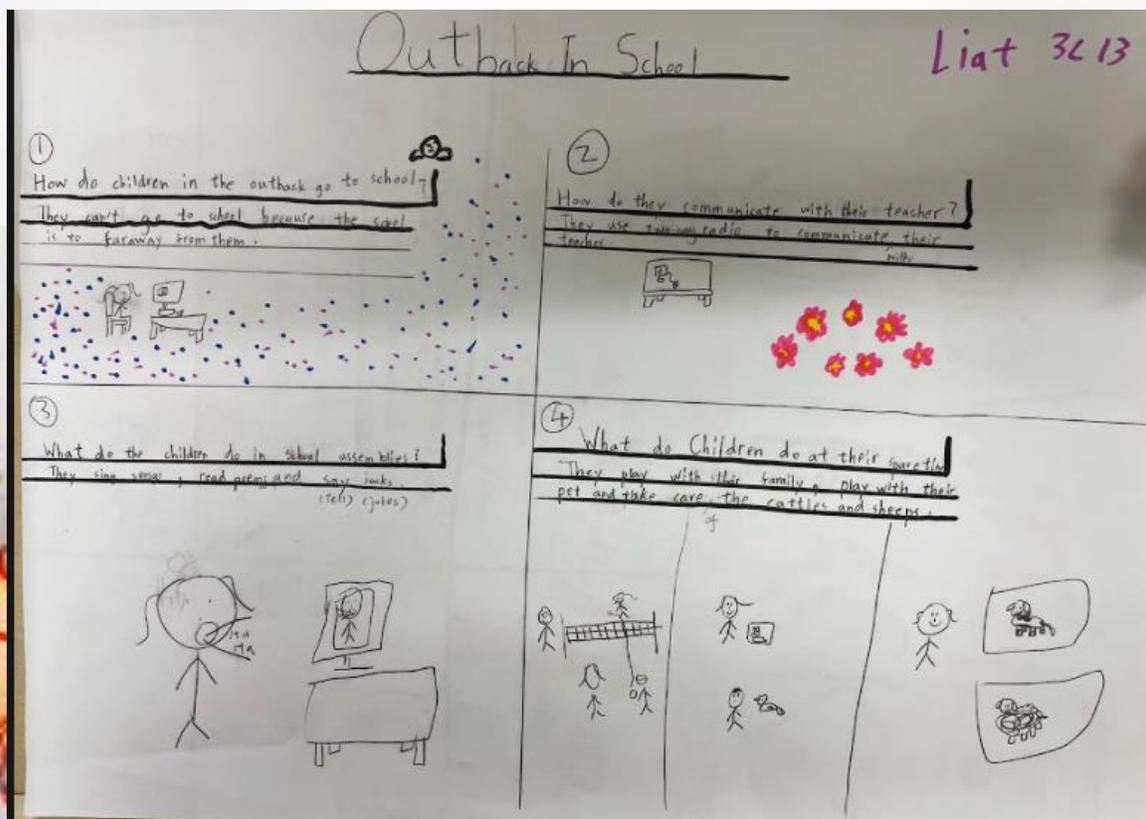


Grade Three

Grade Three students have been learning about different countries in Module 1. They learnt that in Australia, some children live in the Outback, which is hundreds of kilometres away from the nearest school, so those children do not go to a mainstream school. Instead, they join a school called the School of the Air. The lessons that they have are called air lessons as the lessons are broadcast by radio.

The students in the School of the Air communicate by two-way radio, email and the Internet. They also have assemblies like us, and they do similar things during the assemblies too, for example, singing songs, reading stories and playing musical instruments.

To check their understanding of the book, our Third Graders were asked to create posters to retell the main characteristics of the School of the Air. Take a look at some of their work! 😊



school in the OUTBACK

1. How do children in the outback go to school?

Answer: The children in the outback use internet to have air lessons.



2. How do people in the outback talk to each other?

Answer: The people in the outback use fax, e-mail and the internet to talk to each other.



3. What do the children do in school assemblies?

Answer: The children sing songs, read poems, tell stories and jokes in school assemblies.

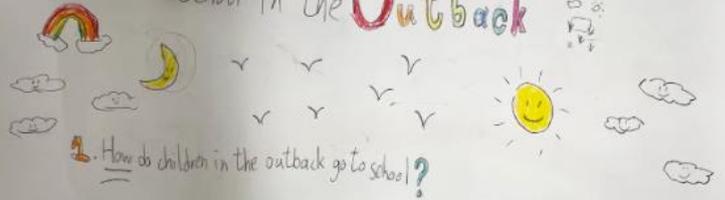


4. What do children do in their spare time?

Answer: They play with their pets in their spare time.



* School in the Outback *



1. How do children in the outback go to school?

The children don't go to school, the school comes to the children.

2. How do they communicate with their teacher?
(meet)

They communicate with their teacher with fax, telephone or e-mail.

3. What do the children do in school assemblies?

They tell jokes, share stories, sing songs and read poems in the school assemblies.

4. What do children do at their spare time?

The children can play with their pets in their spare time.



School In Outback

Illustrated by Auel
written by Kasem

1. How do children in the outback go to school?

A. the children use air lessons to go to school.



2. How do they communicate with each other?

A. telephones and fax.



3. What do the children do in school assemblies?

A. Sing songs, read poems and stories, tell jokes and play musical instruments.



4. What do children do at their spare time?

A. Take care of sheep and cattle, play with pet plant vegetables.



Grade Four

Grade Four students have been learning about **the rainforest**. They have learnt about the **layers** of the rainforest, the **animals** (such as sloths, howler monkeys, anaconda snakes etc.), **plants** (like the bridal veil fungus and corpse flower) and the **people** (the Yanomamis) who live deep in the Amazon Rainforest.

Although we do not have any rainforests in Hong Kong, we can actually find many **products from the rainforest** in our homes. Rainforests provide us with fruits, vegetables, drinks like coffee and tea, fibres, oils, gums and resins.

Grade Four students made some **riddles** about the rainforest products you can find at home. Have a look at the riddles on this page and the next page and see if you can find the answers! **Have fun!**

1. It is a food that we usually eat. I am eaten boiled or steamed. Before it reaches your bowl, it grows in a paddy field. What am I?
2. I am yellow but I am not a banana. You use me every day but I'm not a highlighter. I am a kind of liquid but I'm not orange juice. You use me for cooking but I'm not butter. What am I?
3. I am green, but I am not a lime. I can be added to salads but I am not lettuce. I am not sweet but I am not sour. Guess a fruit.



4. I am a fruit that is yellow and green. I can sometimes be eaten raw or cooked. I can be on pizzas or eaten with meat. My texture is like butter and as yummy as it can be! What am I?



5. I'm red but I'm not a stop light. I'm sweet but I'm not an M&M. I'm sometimes in a jam but I'm not a car during rush hour. I'm a fruit but I'm not an apple. I'm often a flavor of yogurt but I'm not raspberry. What am I?

6. What is a five-letter-fruit that is shaped like a pear but is not a pear?

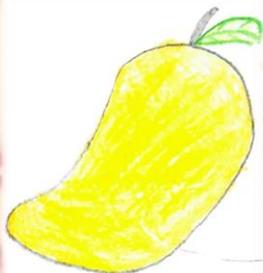
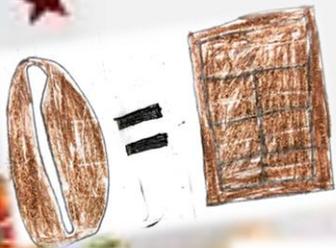
7. In the pencil case, I am bored. Out of the box, then I am free!
When you use me, my hair will come off and your work will be gone! What am I?

8. I am rough on the outside, but I am not a crocodile.
I may not smell right, but I am delicious inside. What am I?



9. I am a type of bean. People use me to make chocolate. People also use me to make chocolate milk. I grow in the wild in Central and South America. I come from a tree called cacao plant. What am I?

10. I am orange on the outside and inside but I am not an orange. I look like a pear but I am not a pear. I am a type of fruit. What am I?



1. Rice (by 4C Hailey Lam)
2. Oil (by 4B Charli Lau)
3. Avocado (by 4C Ethan Woo)
4. Avocado (by 4C Koey Lui)
5. Strawberry (by 4B Jamie Cheng)
6. Guava (by 4C Haywood Chan)
7. Eraser (by 4B Aiden Tsang)
8. Durian (by 4C Felix Ke)
9. Cocoa bean (by 4B Vanilla Wong)
10. Papaya (by 4C Nicole Lee)

Answers:

Grade Five

Be careful, everyone! The Grade Five students have nearly finished with their spy training, and are ready to test their newfound skills on the whole school! Will they be able to pass secret messages to one another without the teachers knowing? Have they created innovative ways to spy on one another and learn all their classmates' juiciest secrets?

One thing is for sure, they have been busy making their own periscopes so they can observe their targets unseen. Luckily for us, they will be presenting their findings in class soon, and that will give us a chance to finally learn what they're capable of. We sure hope they don't find out about the secret ice-cream shop... oh... never mind...

Some spies have been comparing different spy gadgets to better arm themselves for different missions and situations, while others have even started designing their own to dominate in the field. We can't wait to see what exciting adventures the Grade Five students will be embarking on. Stay tuned for the next update!

5C – Nathan Lo



5C – Herman Chan



Grade Six

Grade Six students have been working hard on their projects about the different dimensions of wellness. Most people know about physical and mental health, but did you know that there are actually eight different types of health?

For their projects, students had to create a poster and a video to explain some of the lesser known types of health such as environmental, spiritual and financial health.

Are you curious about how to improve any aspect of health and wellness? Are you interested in learning how to practise mindfulness? Well, just ask any of our Sixth Graders. I'm sure they will be happy to share all the interesting things they've learned so far with you!



Environmental Wellness

The harm of environmental pollution to human

In most places, people's environmental health is very poor. It can cause chemical pollution, air pollution, climate change, pathogenic microorganisms, heart disease, asthma and many other diseases. People living in a healthy environment



are less sick than others, and living longer. Environmental health activities we live a lifestyle that respects the surrounding environment. If the earth's environment continues to be destroyed, then the ecosystem will face extinction. On the contrary, only by protecting the environment and cherishing the earth's resources can we reduce our lives and make the ecological environment better. We must contribute to the planet and take immediate action to protect the environment and the planet.

How can we improve our environmental wellness?

- Ride your bike, walk or take public transportation instead of driving.
- Plant and tend a garden.
- Use natural cleaning products.
- Remove clutter from your home or office.
- Conserving energy (e.g. shutting off unused lights).
- Recycling paper, pens and glass as much as possible.
- Enjoying and appreciating time outside in natural settings.
- Not polluting the air, water or earth.
- Be a green consumer.
- Purchase environmentally friendly domestic materials or other consumables.

What is Financial Health?
Financial health is a measure of people's comprehensive financial situation at a given point in time.

Why is Financial Health Important?

Due to 2020's Poor People Data, there were 600 million Chinese who earn less than 1,000 RMB a month. They don't even have money to pay for tuition children sent up to school, this also led to intellectual problems. Something worse, they don't have money to pay for their medical bills. Though these cases, we can see the importance of financial health.

Financial Health Indicators for the Developing World



FINANCIAL health

Financial Health Problems

- ① Depression
- ② Anxiety
- ③ Substance Abuse

How to Improve Financial Health?

You need 5 Jars.

- First Jar: Saving. There are 50% people unemployed for a financial emergency. This jar is for saving, it includes emergency money and other urgent savings. It takes 20% from all the money you get.
- Second Jar: Living Expenses. Do you want to be a miser? This jar is for living, if you have it, you will have money to live. It takes 30% from all the money you get.
- Third Jar: Education. There were a lot of people because don't have sufficient knowledge so they don't have work, leading to unemployment. It takes 10% from all the money you get.
- Fourth Jar: Play. Everyone needs rest, this takes 10% from all the money you get.
- Fifth Jar: Love. This jar is for love, if you have it, you will have money to love. It takes 5% from all the money you get.

SPIRITUAL WELLNESS

WHAT is Spiritual Wellness?

- Able to find your meaning, purpose and value in life.
- Understand your preferred values, morals and beliefs.
- Achieve inner peace.
- Maintain emotionally stable and healthy.
- Come with mental and emotional wellness.



When we become spiritually health, we will:
- Be optimistic, confident and happy generation
- Some negative emotion, such as anxiety, stress and sadness or anger, depression keep us away from spiritual wellness.

How do we improve Spiritual wellness?

1. Meditate to calm down our emotion when we are angry or frustrated.
2. Yoga slow down our mind for peace.
3. Music / Art: Appreciate music and art which could achieve happiness.
4. Family Time: Feel loved or trusted. Talking and listening to family could relieve anxiety and pressure.

It's important to remember that by keeping a healthy spiritual life you can better manage your physical health. Your spiritual life can help you to cope with any issues that may arise with your physical health. We are whole beings. Balance can.



IS Spiritual Wellness important?

Spiritual health is as important as other wellness such as:
- How we get along with (Social health)
- How we spend our money (Financial health)
- How we take care of our bodies (Physical health)
- How we control our emotions (Mental health)



Occupational Wellness

Occupational Wellness

Occupational wellness is the ability to achieve a balance between work and leisure in a way that promotes health. In fact, everyone needs a life with work-life balance.

Now, I am going to share how to have occupational wellness.

Top five occupational problems in our workplace

1. Long working hours
2. Conflicts among co-workers
3. Low team morale
4. Job Positioning Issue
5. Workplace politics

** According to South China Morning Post

How to improve occupational wellness:

- ★ Keeping motivated, and work towards what you want
- ★ Finding the benefits and positives in your current job
- ★ Enjoying what you do as well as doing what you enjoy
- ★ Creating connections with your co-workers
- ★ Talking to a career counselor if you feel stuck or depressed



Grade Six Plus

Six Plus students have been learning how to enrich their narrative using different writers' tools. These include literary devices (such as alliteration and onomatopoeia), five parts of a plot, dialogues and character development. Another strategy we have learnt is how to *explode a moment*.

Exploding a moment isn't making it go "Kaboom!" Rather, it's about slowing down that part of the story and creating the moment as a sensory experience for the reader. **First, we set the mood of the moment.** Our writing gives a feeling to the atmosphere at that time. **Next, we give details of the moment by using the 5 senses.** We can write about the sights, sounds, textures, tastes and smells. **Finally, we add thoughts to the moment.** We share the inner thinking of the character at that moment.

As an exercise on how to explode a moment, the Six Plus students searched online for photos that they feel would express the idea, **"Winter is Coming"**. Then, they chose someone else's photo and exploded that moment with their own writing. Take a look at some of the photos selected by our students as well as their writing.

How would you explode these moments?



WINTER!

Flying my hands into the cold air, I felt joy, intense joy. Snowflakes, flying everywhere. My hands were covered with snowflakes, my hair was flying, I could only smell fresh air, snow tickling my nose... But I don't care. It was the first time I really feel snow, really touch it, really see it, really smell it... I looked at the white, shining snow, melted as I reached for it. I've only seen it from pictures before, but now, it is laying quietly on my palm, disappeared immediately, left only coldness. "Fling... Fling..." As the snow flies happily in front of my eyes, what I could see was only shiningly white...

By Queena Wong



The sun was slowly falling into the lands below and the day had almost ended. The warm orange rays of sunlight radiated off the pure white snow. The evergreen trees, covered with a small layer of snow, glowed light orange in the soothing winter wind, enjoying the last rays of sunlight as dawn neared. The snow glistened under the calming glow of the sun. The snow, orange like the sun. The trees, dancing in the wind and the warm smile of the sun, all form into a stunning picture of the winter afternoon.



As the winter night arrived, clouds rushed to cover the sky, making the land dark and creepy. Leaves had all died and fell because of the lack of warmth and sunlight. However, the corpse of trees remained on the soft white snow.



The black crow flew around the lifeless mountain. Soon, one bird turned into a group of birds. "Leave our territory, leave our territory..." They chirped. Under them was a deep frozen lake, waiting to be defrosted and filled with life.



By Karson Lam The Sad Snowman

In the photo, that was me. At that moment, I felt the powdery snow, as pale white as a ghost, just slightly touching my bottom. I could smell just a tiny hint of some minty, fresh hot cocoa, straight from the machine, in the snowy breeze. My snowman's head, fell right off, the same snowman that I had been building for the whole entire day, gone. I could hear the crumbling crunch from the snow. I could feel the salty liquid running down from my eyes, and at that same moment, I yelled for my saying, "His head just fell off!!!"

1 second later

THE WINTER SNOW BB (6/14/11) Cheryl Chan

Cold breeze were everywhere, and red-orange coloured maple leaves flew down slowly from the blue sky. Pure and clean snowflakes covered the Victorian style garden bench with its fluffy and soft body. The tall maple tree filled full with tiny and dedicated snowflakes. Its colourful leaves dropped on the large mattress formed by thousands of snowflakes. Street lights lightened up, and a shadow of itself appeared on the cool and thick layer of snow. Snow can be seen everywhere during the winter, presenting an unforgettable winter to us.



EPA

Preparations for the **Grade 5 Annual Performance** have begun! The scripts for the four stories have been written by our talented EPA teachers and the students have been assigned to their stories!

After two years of rehearsing online through Zoom, we are very excited to be able to rehearse in person.

We have some exciting stories lined up for you this year. We have stories about zombies, time travel, guardian angels and your favourite Disney characters. Each story will revolve around our school-wide focus on *perseverance*.

We're very excited for rehearsals to get under way!



First Term English Week

The First Term English Week ran from 15th to 26th November. Students were treated to lots of fun goodies over the ten days.

During the First Recess, **Daily Videos** were broadcast in the classrooms. Fun videos – Jokes for Kids, Tongue Twister Challenges, Mysteries to Unlock, Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes – were created by the English Team, featuring some teachers and students. If you missed the videos, you're in luck! Scan the QR Code to view them all!



During the Second Recess, **THE ENGLISH WEEK BOARD** was updated throughout English Week with entertaining and intriguing displays for our students to browse and enjoy. Most of all, there were **GAMES AND ACTIVITIES** conducted by our English Teachers, including Pictionary, Riddles, Mad Libs, Storytelling, Dance Jam, Puzzle Race, Terb-Tadj-Toun, Word Scramble... and even more! Check out the Around the Campus section for more photos from all the English Week Fun.

Are you ready for **Term Two English Week**? Mark your calendars for May 2022!



Featured Writing -

Grade 6+

TRICK OR TREAT

As the news of the passing of Mary spread in the village, we all mourned her. A few weeks later, almost everybody in the village attended her funeral.

Everybody went silent when the hearse came by. We were standing straight, music flew around. It was Mary's favourite song. You could feel the sadness in the village, it even seemed that the trees were bowing sadly. Heartbreaking tears and cries of Mary's family members and friends were heard from far away.

After a year, almost everybody forgot about it, for they were excited about the upcoming Halloween! Pumpkins and bat decorations were all in front of houses, some kids were already dressing up as witches and zombies!

Halloween had arrived, my friends and I dressed up as vampires, and we were extremely excited about Trick or Treat and getting candies.

While trick-or-treating, I heard weird noises from next door. "Crack, crack, crack..."

I was spooked, yet curious at the same time.

I looked closely, I felt something familiar about the house. Oh yes, it was the house Mary used to live in.

I told my friends about it, they hesitated for a bit, but they followed me anyway. So, we tiptoed towards the door.

We were frightened, we could feel a cold breeze surrounding us.

I knocked on the door, not knowing what would happen.

"Trick or Treat?" I yelled.

I could see a shadow coming to open the door, through the translucent window. "Aah!" We screamed.

There was a girl in a creepy white dress, hiding her mysterious face.

My heart almost fell out of my chest when I saw her.

"Is that... Mary?" we thought to ourselves.

"Hey! Why are you guys running away? Don't you want some candy?" the girl turned around and shouted.

"Oh, did my Halloween costume scare you? Haha!" She then began to laugh.

It turned out the girl was Summer. She was a relative of Mary's, and she moved into her house after Mary had passed away.

This day was full of the unexpected. We then returned home with bags filled with millions of candies. However, I am still not sure if I can sleep well tonight after what had happened...

Thales Wu (6W)

IN THE FOREST

I glanced around the forest I was exploring. Locals had warned me of snakes in the forest. But everything was quite normal here. The usual trees, shrubs, vines and pieces of bark on the ground. "Snakes? Load o' rabbit droppings," I muttered.

As I worked my way through a tangle of branches, a slithering sound suddenly came from behind. I froze, then slowly turned around. The sound seemed to be coming from two moss-covered rocks. There was nothing there. Man, my ear's gettin' old, I thought. I turned back and continued to struggle through the branches.

Then the slithering sound came again, this time accompanied by a hiss. I snapped my head around, and what I saw was terrifying. A yellow-spotted snake, glaring at me with baleful eyes and its scaly skin glittering. My heart almost stopped beating and my blood seemed to freeze as terror rushed through my body. There was only one word in my mind: run.

I immediately turned back and ran as if a bunch of cars were behind me. I could hear the snake slithering behind me. I tried not to imagine the snake biting me. The wind sprinted alongside me. As I was beginning to run out of energy, I suddenly spotted some red, glistening berries. *Poisonous berries?* I instantly grabbed a bunch of them and turned to face the snake behind me. As it neared, I thrust the berries towards the snake. The snake opened its huge mouth and sank its fangs into the berries. Red juice seeped from the berries. The venom took a moment to sink in. The snake thrashed on the ground violently until it fell still.

"Man, should've trusted those locals. That snake really caused a lotta trouble," I grumbled, heart still pounding from the experience, as I cleaned my hands in a river.

Leo Sun (6W)

SIX PLUS STRANDED

Long ago, there was an island in the middle of the sea, uncharted on any map. It was empty for decades. However, that streak was about to be broken. "Why?" you may ask. The reason was I was stranded on this island myself. How did I get here? What was the old me like? I didn't know. All I know was that my name was Six Plus and I might never get off this island.

I stood at a beach, letting the wind blow on my face. For a moment, it almost felt like I was on vacation. The soothing wind blew against my face. The smell of the sea and the sounds of the waves crashing against land and the cries of birds. I could be anywhere, so why did it have to be this place?

I turned around and headed towards the woods. Then, I saw nature herself. Beautiful and deadly at the same time, she offered me some water, which I gladly accepted. The moment the water touched my lips, I was transported to another world. This world was as dark as the night and I couldn't see anything. However, I could hear the growls and snarls of some unknown creature and I knew I was not alone. I turned around and suddenly saw a beacon of light in the distance.

Slowly, I walked towards the beacon but then found out that I had stepped onto thin air. I was falling for what seemed like an eternity and screamed till no voice could come out. Then, I woke up. It was all a dream. I had never been to an island or a dark world. However, it had seemed too real. Shaking off my concern about my mental health for having a dream like that, I got up and resumed my normal life as if nothing strange had happened.

Ella Li Yui Tung (6B)

Fun Facts

i j

Did you know that the little dots above i and j are called a tittle?

Did you know that dolphins sleep with half of their brains awake? They do this in case they need to get air or avoid predators.



Did you know, according to science, Hawaii is the best place to see rainbows? The spacing between the showers is sufficient to allow sunlight to reach the rain beneath the showers.

Jokes & Riddles

What is a Christmas tree's favourite candy?

Orna-mints



What do you call a cat sitting on the beach on Christmas Eve?



Sandy Claws

Why does everyone love Frosty the Snowman?

He's cool.



I get chopped, decorated and on one end you'll see wings on top. What am I?

A Christmas Tree

What do you call a person who is afraid of Santa Claus?

Claustrophobic

What do you call a snowman in the summer?

A Puddle

Around Campus





