

1<sup>st</sup> March 2013

Issue 6/1213

# Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

## At a Glance

### The Five Mental Actions

Do you know that when we read and listen actively, we are actually using 5 Mental Actions to increase our understanding of what we are listening to or reading? These are what they are:

- 1. Monitor Comprehension** – we actively make note of what we do or don't understand and find clues in the text to gain meaning of words or phrases
- 2. Make Predictions** – we predict what we are going to read or hear next and then either revise our prediction if we are wrong or find evidence to support our prediction if we are right
- 3. Make Connections** – as we read or listen, we make connections to our experiences and lives to deepen our understanding
- 4. Mentally Summarise** – at various points, we stop and think about what we have just read and put those points into notes, either mentally or physically
- 5. Reformat** – we make mental or physical lists categorising what we've read or heard

Happy Chinese New Year everybody!

As I read through this PEN issue, I am once again struck by the many varied activities and modules we offer our primary students.

The Grade 1's have been busy with animals and their habitats; the Grade 2's know a lot more about Hong Kong and its past than they did before; the Grade 3's had a great time at the theatre watching Mr. Benn; the Grade 4's are extending their environmental knowledge by learning about the characteristics and effects of different forces of nature; the Grade 5's are learning about different inventors and writing biographies; and lastly, the Grade 6's are dabbling in rotten bananas and living organisms in their science module. Read all about their activities in detail in this issue.

We also have our Grade 2's celebrating their wonderful writing; and a display of photos of students at work and play around campus.

Remember to look out for PEN on the first Friday of each month!

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms. Jennifer Lopez

Primary English Panel

# GRADE 1

Hi everyone one! Happy Year of the Snake! We would like to tell you something about our Grade One Learning Journey to the Hong Kong Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Please read our Writing Journals to know more about it!

You are welcome! Thank you for looking after them!

Thanks very much for your donation to the animals in SPCA!! It is very kind of you all!



Meow, thanks for visiting us! Please tell others to be a responsible pet owner!



Meow... I am happy here but I really want to have my own home...



Hi Kitty Kitty! Are you happy here?



# My Visit to HK SPCA

(by Carson Shum 1P)



On my visit to HK SPCA, we saw some cats, hamsters, a rabbit and a turtle. I like the rabbit and the cats because they are so funny and lovely! I watched a video and learned something about how to take care of our pets.



When I went to the hamsters and the rabbit's room, I did not know they were sleeping. They are so cute and colorful! We also fed the rabbit. It is so friendly and so good! When we went to the cats' room, I felt they are so funny because they kept jumping around.



Finally, we visited a small shop. Ms Anna bought a bottle of ear cleaner for Eddie her dog. What a great day!



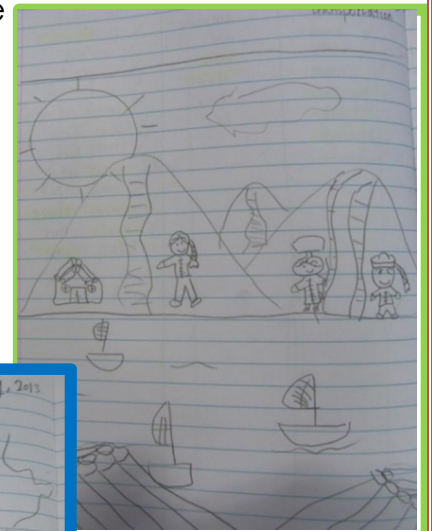
# GRADE 2

Our Grade 2 students have been learning a lot about Hong Kong in module two – “Hong Kong, My Home”.

Recently, they worked on the history part of the module. To begin with, they were asked to imagine what Hong Kong was like about 100 years ago, focusing on the housing, buildings, clothing and modes of transportation. They presented their drawings in front of the class. Then, they looked at some photos that were taken about one hundred years ago, and compared them with the photos that were taken nowadays at the same places, to explore how much Hong Kong has changed in the past 100 years. The children were excited to discover that the buildings were much shorter in the past. The transportation was less busy and people took sedan chairs and rickshaws to other places.

The children also learned about why and how Hong Kong became a British colony. They found the drug opium interesting and were in a rage when they heard that China was forced to sign the unequal treaties and gave Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and Stonecutter’s Island to Britain.

They also watched video clips about the Handover Ceremony in 1997.

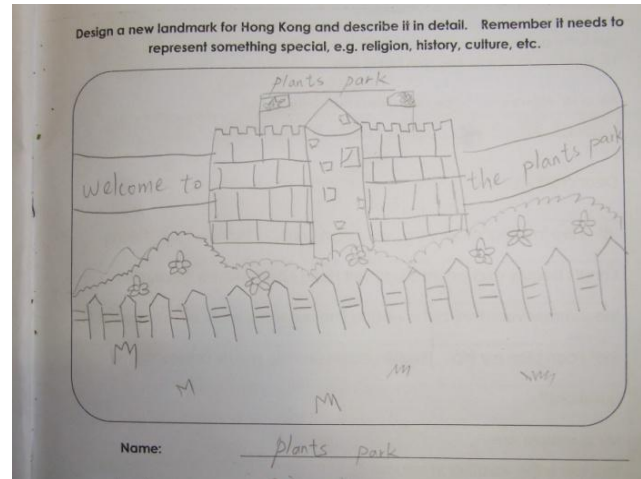


After learning about the history of Hong Kong, they looked at some landmarks in Hong Kong and got to design a new landmark for Hong Kong! The little ones are very creative. Let's take a look at their fabulous designs below ☺



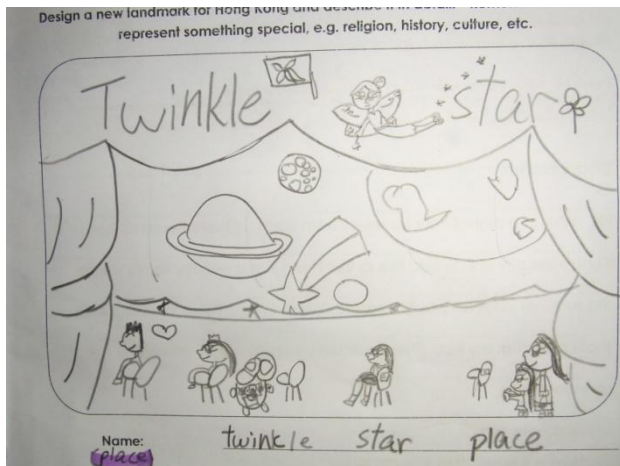
The people will see a lot of stars. They can buy different star products, like star stories, star cups, star dolls.

Tiffany Tong



This park contains the largest amount of plants in Hong Kong. People can take photos of the plants. They can pick some plants and buy them.

Chloe Cheung



People can look at the star show at night. The star show represents the prosperity of Hong Kong.

Hebe Chan



People can play with the animals or feed them. they can see animals around the world. This park is very big and the playground has games that are of animal shapes.

Demi Chen

# GRADE 3



Hi everyone, our Grade 3 students and teachers hope you have a fabulous New Year! This month we went to the Hong Kong Performing Arts Centre to watch the long-awaited show "The Extraordinary Adventure of Mr. Benn"!!! Mr. Benn and his adventures amazed us with catchy songs and astounding magic.

Our students were excited and filled with anticipation when about to watch this tall story.



Do you want to know more about it? Here we go! The story takes place on one ordinary day; Mr. Benn receives an invitation to a fancy dress party and comes across an extraordinary shop. As if by magic, the shopkeeper appears with an array of costumes, and shows him into the

dressing room. Inside is a mysterious door that leads Mr. Benn into incredible adventures, full of dragons, princesses and sea monsters... Will Mr. Benn ever go back to his ordinary life? Wait and see!



## Let's look at some of the highlights of the show!



# GRADE 4



Our Grade Four students are working on Module 2. They have been learning the causes and effects of natural disasters, different types of pollution and how to protect the environment through recycling.

Through readers, posters, excursions and group activities, our students realise that although natural disasters are regular and unavoidable, people can work together to prevent those man-made disasters that result from their own activities, e.g. the excessive exploit of the earth's resources and different kinds of pollution. Now, our students are learning how to look after the well-being of our planet by using the '4Rs'.

We hope that by changing daily habits to live green lives, we can keep up the healthiness of both the planet and our bodies.

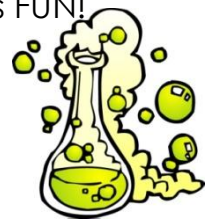






# GRADE 5

Happy Lunar New Year everyone! Our Grade 5 students have been reading biographies about famous people around the world. We read about Isaac Newton, Thomas Edison and a few more! We focused on their childhoods, early lives, inventing journeys and contributions. Without their work, our lives now will be very different! We learned how to write a proper biography ourselves by reading their biographies. We wrote a few biographies in our Writing Journals and one of them was a biography of ourselves! It was FUN!



Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

**My good copy**

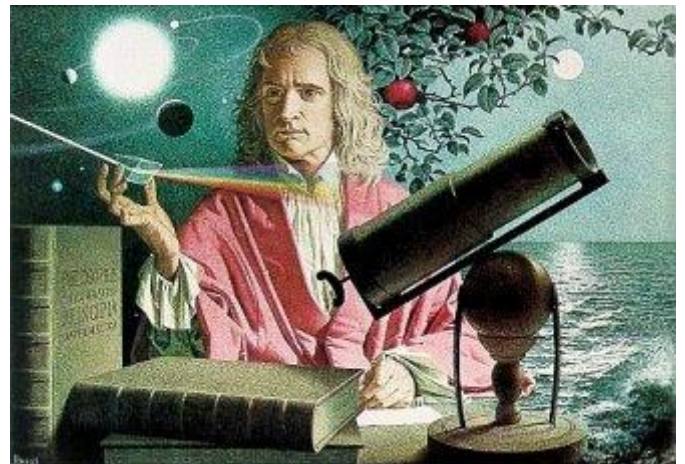
Thomas Alva Edison

Thomas Alva Edison is one of the most famous inventors in the world, who holds the record of 1093 patents.

Thomas Edison was born in Milan, Ohio in 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1847. He did not go to school, for he always wasn't paying attention to the teacher. So his mother taught Edison at home. When Thomas Edison was twelve years old, he contracted scarlet fever, which caused his left ear deaf and right ear 80% deaf.

In 1868, Edison began to work for the Western Union Company as telegraph operator. He was very hard-working and at last, also in 1869, invented an "electric vote-recording machine". This invention made voting process faster.

At the age of 29, Edison improved Alexander Graham Bell's new telephone. It made the tele-  
18  
louder. In 1877, Edison invented the phonograph, it



the first machine that could record and play sound. This invention, made him famous. In 1879, Edison invented a light bulb that lasts very long.

Thomas Edison died in 18 October, 1931. He was a great inventor. He helped change the world and our daily lives.

## My good copy

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2013

Steve Jobs

Steve Jobs was an American businessman best known as the co-founder, chairman, and CEO of Apple Inc.. Under his leadership, the Apple Inc. became the most valuable and profitable company in the world.

Steve Jobs was born on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1955 in San Francisco, California. His parents put him up for adoption, then Steve Jobs was adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs, they moved to suburban city of Mountain View later.

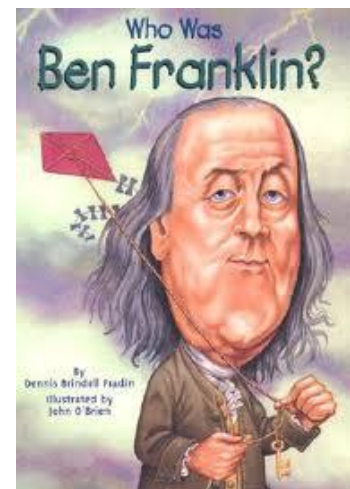
Steve Jobs, who was **industrious**, **invented** many products = iMac, iPhone, Apple I (one) computer, iPad music player **which** Steve Jobs got many **patent**. Steve Jobs **invented** more and more iPhone to **improve** the first iPhone.

Steve Jobs found that he had cancer in 2003, his body fought with the cancer, but unfortunately, his final years came, Steve Jobs died on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2011 at

the age of 56 years old.

Steve Jobs was a great **inventor** of **technology**, he received a number of honors and public recognition for his influence in the **technology** and music industries. He has been described as the "Father of the Digital Revolution" and "Master of Innovation". His ideas and the Apple **products** changed the whole world.

We also starting our literacy reader and it is called **Who Was Ben Franklin?** He was an inventor and a scientist. He created bifocal glasses and discovered the nature of lightning. We will be reading this reader for the next few weeks.



# GRADE 6

We are almost coming to an end with our second module “The Wonders of Science”!



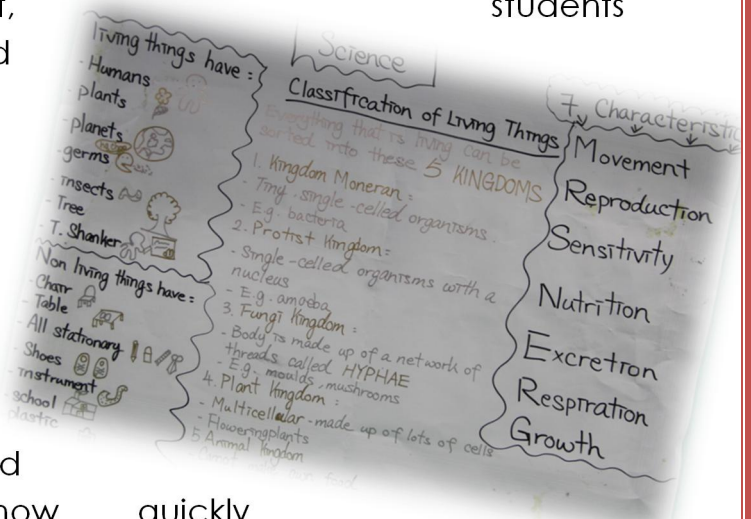
In this module, students explored simple and fun science experiments. Our students did many experiments and one experiment was conducted to determine how the environment makes an impact

on living things. In this experiment, observed the changes on a selected spot on campus and outside the campus.

students

They were

amazed at how quickly changes on living things take place due to environmental and human influence.



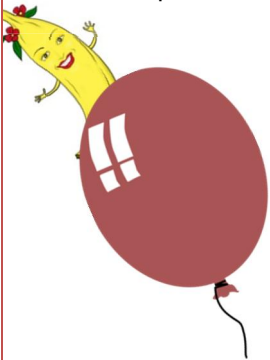
Can you blow up a balloon with a banana?



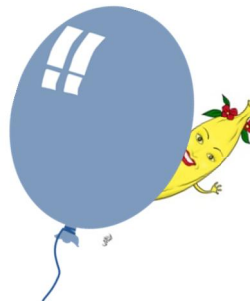
Yes! Our Grade 6 students carried out the experiment in the classroom. As the banana decomposes over time, it inflates a balloon. Students learned that when you take a rotten banana and put it in the bottle the gases produced can blow up a balloon. Students recorded the changes every day in their experiment log and they were amazed by how a banana can give off gas with enough bacteria present to inflate the balloon. It might seem disgusting but our Grade 6 students actually had fun doing the experiment.



As an end – of – module project, our Grade 6 students will do a science experiment in a group and video-tape it. We can't wait to see their projects!



Our Grade 6 students did it.



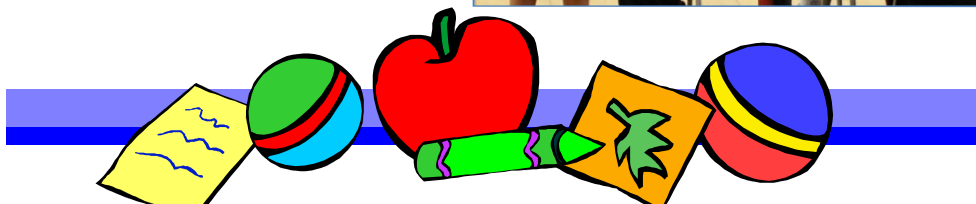
# English Performing Arts

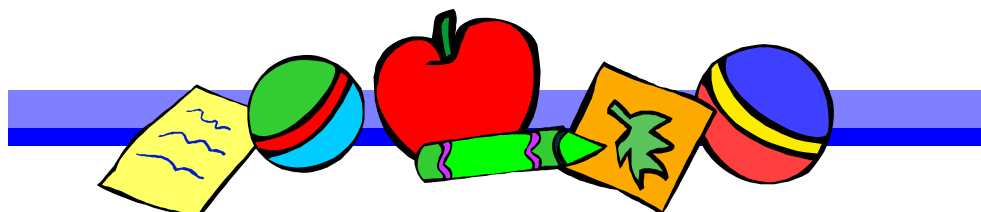
In Grade 1 and Grade 2, the EPA classes are integrated with the English curriculum.

In Grade 3, the EPA classes focus more on students' performing skills. The Grade 3 students learn four different performing skills in a year. They are **Drama, Movement, Music and Voice**. They learn two components in each term. By the end of each component, the students will do a final performance either in class or during English week. Their performing abilities are enhanced after learning the four components specifically and their achievements are demonstrated through their final performances.

The Grade 3 students did drama and singing performances during the last English week in December 2012.

Here are some of their performance shots. Enjoy! 😊





# Open

## What I did during my Christmas holiday

By Oscar Lee (2M)



During the Christmas holiday, my family went to Beijing. It was the coldest winter in the past 30 years. We wore a lot of clothes.

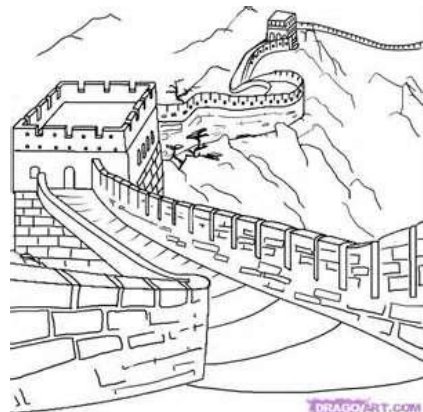
We went for a hot spring bath but the water was too hot. It was about 57 degrees Celsius. So I did not like it.

We visited the Forbidden City. It was the palace for the kings from Ming Dynasty to Qing Dynasty.

We watched a Martial Art performance. There were many different kinds of Kung Fu. Some used swords, some used their heads to snap an iron bar, some were like drunk dance.

We went to visit the Great Wall. We climbed 618 steps to reach the Observation Station. I climbed up a steep stairs to reach the top of the station. I could see some parts of the Great Wall were still ruined and needed to be repaired.

I enjoyed this holiday very much.







### **If I was a superhero...**

*Written by Heather Wai (2B)*

If I was a superhero, I would give a lesson to C.Y. the villain so that he won't tell lies.

C.Y. the villain is a naughty boy. He always tells

### **In the Walled Village**

*By Christie Lui (2C)*

In the walled village, we hope to learn about the lifestyle of the villagers.

First, I like to play hide and seek with my friends because



lies. Godiva, Zita and I would form a super girl team – Powerpuff Girls, and we have an idea.

Mom tells me the story of “Christmas Carols”. We would pretend to be ghosts to scare him. Then, C.Y. would become a good boy and wouldn't tell lies anymore!



the walled village is very large.

Then, I love to take photos of

the walled village. If the

weather is fine, I want to plant

flowers in their gardens. In the

walled village, the basin meals

are very famous. I want to

taste them.



## My Favourite Snack

Chips! Chips! Chips! Yummy! Yummy! Yummy!

I like chips. Chips are my favourite snack.

Chips have different flavours. There are pumpkin, vegetable, carrot, BBQ, cheese, pizza, tomato, potato and onion. I like BBQ flavor the most.

I can enjoy eating chips when I am doing homework, when I am watching TV, when I am playing, when I am going to school, when I am cooking... Chips are just like my friend. They are with me every day.

I like chips very much. I wish my mum will buy me a pack of chips for my birthday.



By 2P Dion HO

## Forgetful Mum

*By Chan Jie Yu Nicole (4M)*

'My mum is always forgetful! She sometimes forgets her keys and sometimes does things twice,' said Kathy before the Geography lecture.

RING! RING! It was the last school bell and Kathy was walking home from school. When she got home, she could smell the aroma of fried fish. How she wished it was dinner time!

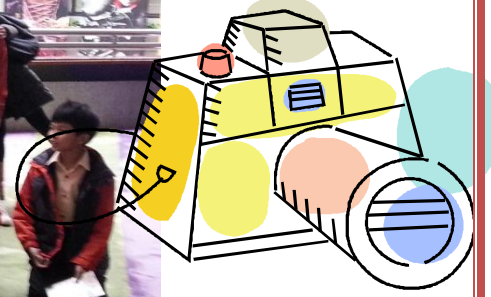
In the late afternoon, her mum was cooking in the kitchen. She was busy but suddenly the phone rang. 'Dring! Dring!' It was one of mum's friends calling. So mum went to answer it. She was on the phone for ten minutes and went back to cook.

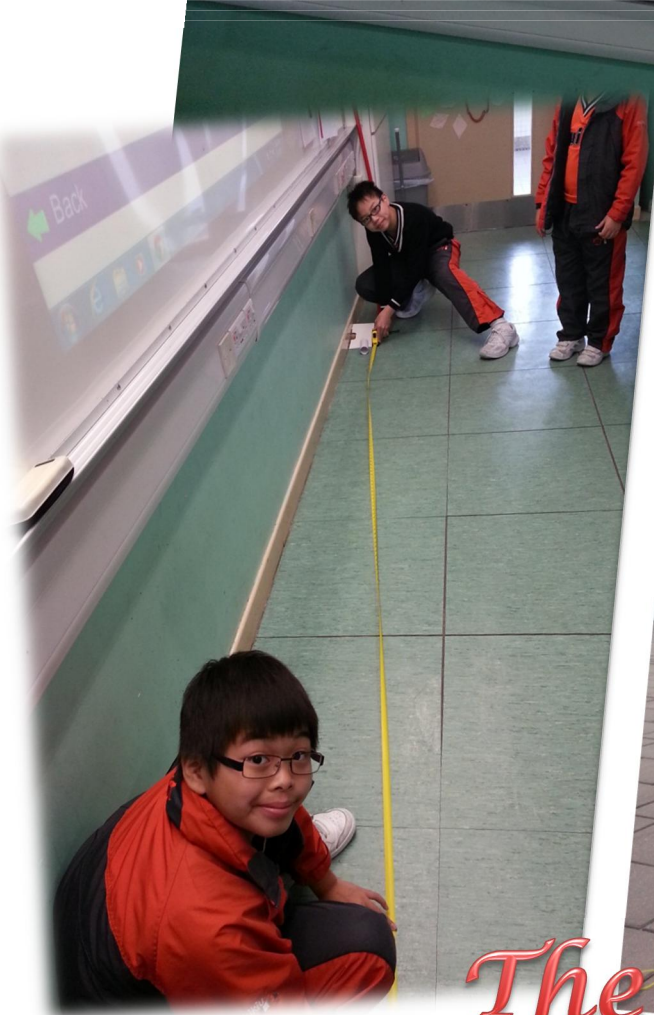
Dinner time finally came and Kathy was craving for the fried fish. However, when she had a bite, she spat it out. 'Why is this fish so salty???' Her mum replied, 'Really? But I cooked it as usual.' They had an argument and Kathy shouted, 'Let's not argue! Let's try and see who's correct!'

At last, Kathy's mum figured out that she was forgetful. She added 3 spoonfuls of salt to the fried fish and that's why it tasted extremely salty! Well, Kathy had to forgive her forgetful mum.



# AROUND CAMPUS





*The End*