

Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

At a Glance

What do we have in each level for the second module?

Grade 1: **'Animals'**

As the Year of Monkey is coming, the first animal they should know more about is the **monkey**. What do you think?

Grade 2: **Hong Kong, my HOME**

How much do the **2nd Graders** know about H.K.?

Grade 3: **Plants**

Do you know the true colours of leaves? Check it out.

Grade 4: **Natural disasters**

Natural disasters are horrible. How did the **4th Graders** present the power of nature?

Grade 5: **Inventions**

Do you know SCAMPER? Don't take this word at its face value.

Grade 6: **Wonders of Science**

Do you want to make hypotheses on the relationship between volume and heart rate as well as bounce height and temperature? Go take a look at the **6th Graders'** findings.

Chinese New Year is best known for its hilarity. People spend lots of time preparing for it, like cleaning up, shopping for new clothes and shoes, buying good food, putting up spring couplets and visiting flower markets. Have you had one of the above-mentioned activities already, or all of the activities, with your family?

During Chinese New Year, most people are super busy. Chinese New Year Eve and its first few days are always the climax of the festival. Young children are happy with receiving red packets and spending time with their cousins or friends while their parents are always fully occupied by something else, **so** they do not have to worry too much about their children's study, nor do they have to keep a close eye on their children's progress in ECA as they usually do. It is the time for both the parties to take a break.

One of the distinctive natures of Chinese New Year is that it fades out gradually and quietly, instead of vanishing sharply. What really brings it to an end? The New Year Lantern Festival usually does. Instead of giving our love ones flowers like what we always do on Valentine's Day, **we watch lanterns and enjoy riddles.**

Boys and girls, I am sure that you are ready for this hilarious festival, or you have already started enjoying yourself travelling out of town with your mum and dad. No matter where you are now, please think about making a resolution before CNY as spring is always the best time to plan and the best season of renewal. It is especially true to those who have not made one yet. Here I wish you happiness and health in the Year of Monkey.

Beatrice Chiu, the **Primary** English Panel Head

Grade 1

Grade 1

The Grade 1 students are learning about animals in the second module. We read some stories about animals and read books to learn facts about them.

Can you guess what animals are the students pretending? (Answers are at the bottom of next page) Have fun!

1)





2)



3)



4)



5)



Answers:

1) a hare

2) a monkey

3) an elephant

4) a crocodile

5) a lion



Grade 2

The Grade 2 students are learning about our own city, **Hong Kong!** Hong Kong is a small but vibrant city.

It is full of heavenly food, people from various countries and numerous skyscrapers.

To make our learning more fun and interesting, students will go on an excursion to interview tourists at Tsim Sha Tsui. They are going to find out what the visitors like to see and do in Hong Kong. It's going to be fun!

Hurray!



Hong Kong is the most densely populated city in the world. The population reached 7.29 million in mid-2015.

Hong Kong has the most skyscrapers in the world. When talking about buildings with more than 14 floors, Hong Kong has around 8000 of them, almost double that of New York! Wow!

Fun fact about public transport: 7 in 10 people take buses and 35% of people take taxis every week.

Random Fact about shopping: Jusco and Sogo are among the top two department stores most visited.

Fun fact about travel: the number of people taking an air trip outside Hong Kong has leapfrogged 10 times in 30 years from 4% in 1975 to 40% in 2015.

Interesting fact about eating habits: 'Cha Charn Teng' or 'Tai Pai Dong' (Hong Kong styled cafe) are unique in Hong Kong. They are visited by one-third of the people in Hong Kong on a weekly basis.



Grade 3

The G3 students have been learning about amazing plants, so let's share some of the fascinating things they have learnt in this module.

Plants use an incredible process called **photosynthesis** to take sunlight, carbon dioxide, water and nutrients from the ground and turn them into their own food. In doing so, they also clean the air we breathe.

Plants come in a huge variety of shapes and sizes and have special adaptations that allow them to survive in all environments from the snowiest climates to the hottest deserts.

People often farm or collect plants for a wide range of reasons. But plants do not only help us by providing us with food, materials and clean air, but they also allow many animals to rely on them or call them their homes.

G3 students have been especially focusing on trees.

They learnt that there are two types of trees: deciduous trees and conifers.

Deciduous trees are trees that usually have broad, flat leaves. These are the trees that give us a wide range of fruits we love. Among them, there is a special deciduous tree providing us with sweet and delicious sauce many people enjoy when they are having their pancakes. What sauce is it? It is maple syrup.

Maple syrup is made from tree that trees make through use as food. The sap is from the harvested and used to make



sap; the sugary liquid photosynthesis and maple trees and maple syrup.

Lightning strike and trees:

Although trees are able to survive a lightning strike, if the outer rings of a tree trunk are damaged too much, trees can die.

What is the 'true' colour of leaves?

If your answer is green, you are not quite right. Deciduous trees only have green leaves because the chlorophyll they make for photosynthesis is green. In autumn, when the trees stop making chlorophyll, all the leaves reveal their true colours before they fall off the trees in winter.



Conifers differ from deciduous trees in number of key ways:

- Instead of having broad, flat leaves, they have thinner, needle-shaped leaves.
- Instead of flowering and growing fruits/nuts, they make pinecones to spread their seeds.
- They keep their leaves in winter though the oldest ones drop to make way for the new ones.

Trees are truly remarkable plants, both the deciduous trees and conifers. Moreover, they make great decorations for festivals.

Grade 4

Grade 4 students have been extremely busy preparing for their review test on natural disasters. They should be proud of their being so hard-working and able to achieve well. Efforts put in class and at home definitely pay off. Great job, everybody!



Apart from getting ready for their test this month, they have been involved in Reader's Theatre. They worked in small groups, and before role-playing, they had a serious discussion about earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. They took on various roles as narrators, scientists and lab technicians.

They made props and costumes on their own. They wrote scripts and studied their lines hard. They tried their best to send their messages to their classmates as clearly as they could. It was all about perfecting the 5P's: power, pace, pronunciation, pitch and pause.



Here are some of our performers of Reader's Theatre.



Bravo to all our grade 4 students for delivering a wonderful performance. We are looking forward to another project next month.



Grade 5

SCAMPER

G. 5 has started their 'Inventions', Module 2. Last week, they went on an excursion and learnt the strategy SCAMPER.

What is SCAMPER?

SCAMPER is a brainstorming technique developed by an American creative thinking educator Bob Eberle. This technique is very useful when you want to explore possibilities around an idea. It's good for turning a boring idea into something new and different!

SCAMPER stands for:

Substitute - "What could I use instead?"

Combine - "Are there two things I could mix rather than come up with something new?"

Adapt - "Could we change or copy something else?"

Magnify / Minify - "How could I make it bigger / smaller?"

Put to other uses - "How can I use this in a new way?"

Eliminate - "What can be taken away or eliminated?"

Rearrange / Reverse - “What would happen if I turned it upside down, backward, or inside out?”

Below are some inventions created based on one of the SCAMPER techniques. Let’s have a look at them!

1. **M**agnify / Minify - “How could I make it bigger / smaller?”



Pocket-sized barbeque fork! See how you can extend it to a full-sized fork!

2. **R**earrange / Reverse - “What would happen if I turned it upside down, backward, or inside out?”



Grade 6

The Wonders of Science

Here comes the most exciting module – *The Wonders of Science*! What is science? Science is a way of organizing what we already know and learning more by experiments.

There are a lot of different branches of science. Here are a few of the more common sciences:

biology is the study of living things

zoology is the study of animals

botany is the study of plants

chemistry is the study of the elements (like carbon) and their compounds (like carbon dioxide)

geology is the study of rocks and the earth

astronomy is the study of stars, planets, moons, and everything in space

meteorology is the study of the weather

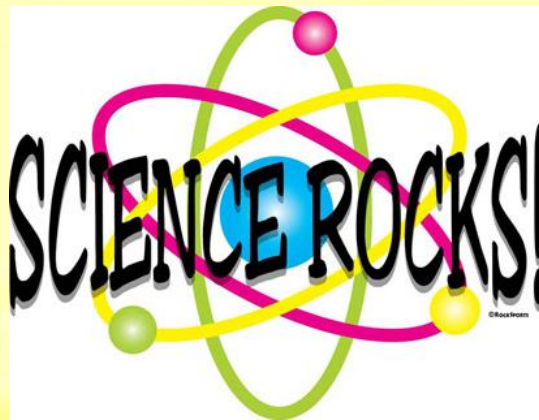


physics is the study of energy - light, sound, heat, electricity, and motion

anthropology is the study of humans

Our Grade 6 students have started to explore the wonderful world of science through experiments! ☺

They learnt how to make hypotheses. A hypothesis is a statement that predicts an experiment's outcome based on what one has already known.



There are two interesting science questions below. Try to make a hypothetic statement before answering them.

- 1. Does listening to loud music change my heart rate?**
- 2. Does a tennis ball bounce higher when it is warmer or cooler?**

Grade 6 students have conducted experiments to prove if their hypotheses are correct or not through observations and measurable results.

Let's take a look at the pictures that were taken while they were doing the experiments.

Experiment 1



Experiment 2

Note: two tennis balls were warmed up for 5 hours; the other two were put in the freezer for 5 hours



Do you want to know the results? You can try out the experiments first before you ask our **sixth graders!** Have fun!

EPA

Our E.P.A. Grade 3 curriculum looks at all aspects of the performing arts. Our students have been having fun with singing, drama, movement and voice. They are developing their critical thinking and improving their teambuilding experience.



After Christmas it has been very cold and wet, and our grade 3 students have been having lots of fun with umbrellas. They were singing about 'Raindrops keep falling on my head' and dancing through puddles whilst 'Singing in the rain'.



Around the
CAMPUS

