

# Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

## At a Glance

Take a look at the following questions. Can you tell the answers before reading the passages? Try!

G. 1: If you were a fish, how would you keep your eggs from danger?

G. 2: Could you locate the organs of your body?

G. 3: What are the common home types in Hong Kong?

G. 4: Can you tell what makes a good story-teller?

G. 5: What were invented in the Middle Ages?

G. 6: How do we conduct a science experiment?

In April, 26 senior students were selected to join an overseas study tour. They flew to Australia with 3 teachers. I would like to express a big thank you to Teachers Virginia, Davhina and Chris for their important roles as facilitators and escorts, thus ensuring the tour was a success. For the past few years, the school has provided students with opportunities to visit Singapore and Malaysia to broaden their horizon in English language learning. This year, we chose Australia as it is an English-speaking country and relatively close to Hong Kong.

There will be a sharing session on the 11th of May during the monthly assembly in the hall. All the Australia study tour participants were invited to tell you their experiences. They are going to discuss how they felt about staying with their host families, using English in an English-speaking country and visiting the attractions with their schoolmates that many of whom they travelled with for the first time. I am sure both the presenters and the audience will gain a lot.

Although it was a short journey, it could have already made a difference in some of the participants' lives. It is hard to tell at this moment how much or how they have been influenced by this experience, or by the people they have met and talked to over the duration of the trip. But one thing for sure is that a seed has been planted in their hearts and it can grow fast and strong at any time. It might become one of the factors influencing their decisions making in the future.

You might question the effectiveness of such a short language tour. According to the view of many linguists, language acquisition is biologically linked to age, especially in second language acquisition. Hence, it is highly recommended to send children to learn a language in a linguistically rich environment the earlier the better. However, many parents feel reluctant to send their children to study abroad before they turn 18. Unfortunately, it is also believed that it is hard for older learners to reach a native-like level, in terms of accent acquisition. Therefore, short-term language study tours are becoming popular and popular each day.

The parents are highly positive about their children's experiences. They said it helped increase their cultural sensitivity, improve their confidence, heighten their appreciation for other cultures and increase their interest in studying in a different country. We have gained lots of confidence in running more overseas study tours and hope to explore more English-speaking countries in the near future. If you want to join the tour to know more about the impact it will have on you and your language development, please pay attention to the promotion of the programme next year.

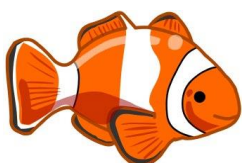
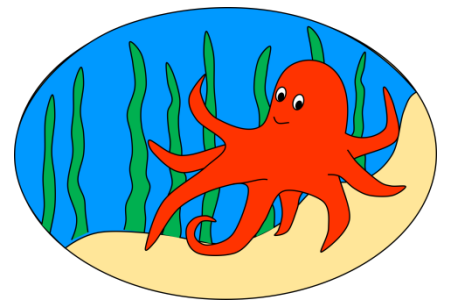
by Beatrice Chiu, the English panel head (Primary Division)

# Grade 1 ~ Ocean Animals

Our Grade One students have been immersed in the world of ocean in the past few weeks!

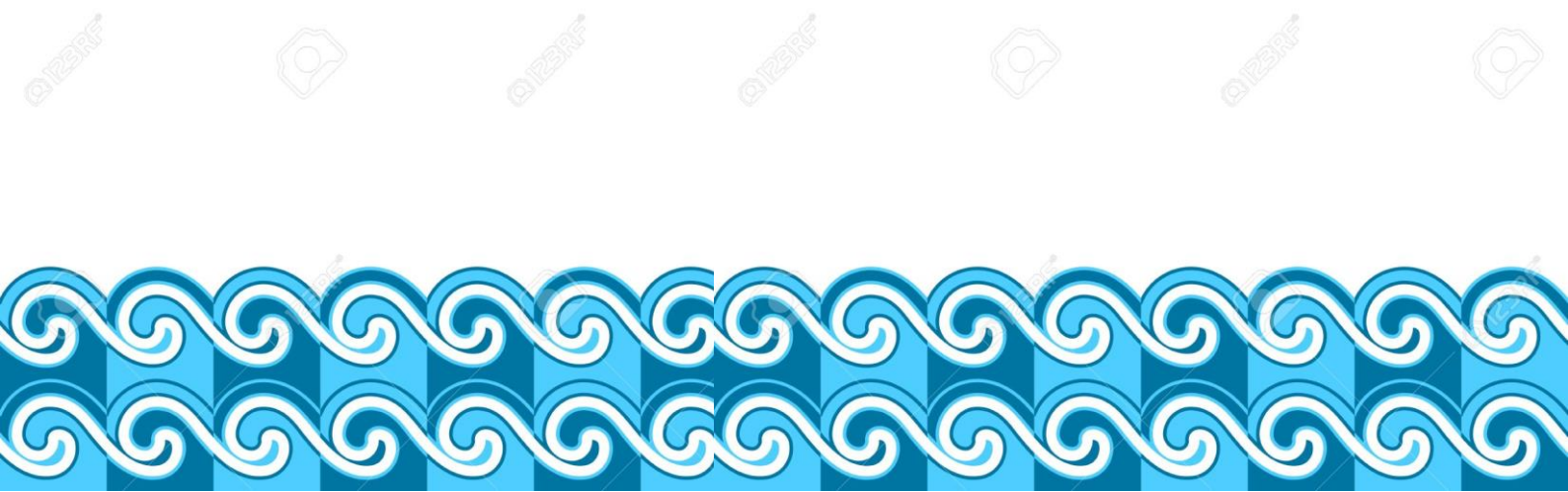
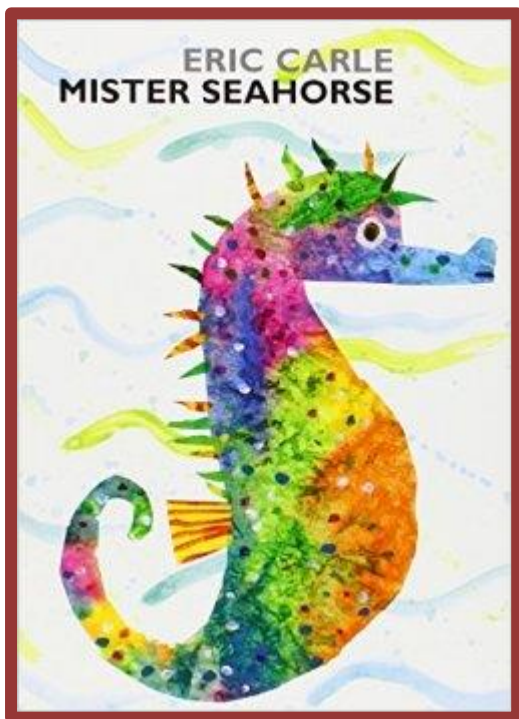
They learnt about different body parts of a fish and they even made one toy fish with paper and colourful and glittering materials! They decorated their fish very nicely, and they enjoyed sharing it with their classmates through “Show and Tell”.

Great job! 😊





Students also read a book called “Mister Seahorse” by Eric Carle. The story is about Mister Seahorse who swims waiting for the eggs to hatch and he meets other underwater fathers caring for their babies. After reading, students did a creative writing task. They imagined that if they were a fish, how they would keep their eggs from danger. Students enjoyed this writing activity a lot and they wrote creatively! Way to go! 😊



# Grade 2

## Organs at the right place

**Our second graders are currently having their Module 3 “Me, Myself and I”. In the past few weeks, students have learnt names and functions of different organs.**

**Each student was asked to make a 3D mini model of the assigned organ and prepare an information card about it. On the activity day, students worked in groups and introduced their models to their groupmates. They presented themselves in a very confident way!**





**After the presentation, they had a competition on location of organs! Students were busy discussing where the organs should be located in the human body. Students were very engaged and excited during the competition. Let's have a look at their cheerful faces!!**



### Grade 3

The Grade 3 children have been learning about different homes around the world. People live in different home types. The most common ones that can be found in Hong Kong are flats, village houses and houses. In other places around the world, people live in cabins, motor homes or even houseboats!



flats



a cabin



a motor home



a houseboat



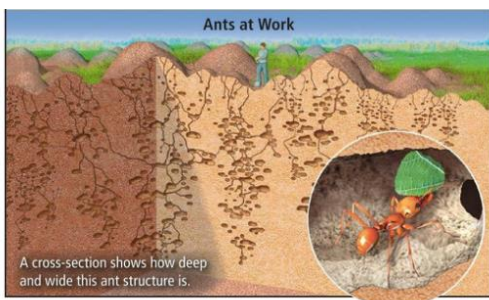
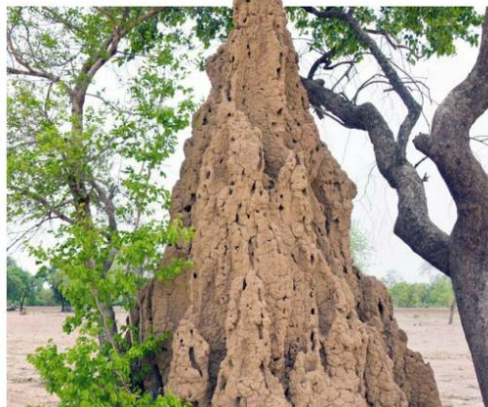
What is about the animals? What homes do animals live in? Let's look at some of the amazing animal homes!



Weaver birds make nests from sticks and grass. One nest can hold about 400 birds! It's a lot, isn't it?

Termites chew wood. They build huge piles with wood and mud. Do you know that the termite queen can produce thousands of eggs per day and can live up to 45 year old?

wood and mud.



Like humans, ants form very large communities. Millions of ants build underground cities with tunnels that go all over.

# Grade 4

Our Grade Four students are still working on the module 'Mysteries and Monsters'. This module provides our students with many opportunities to utilise their imagination in understanding different fictions; ranging from fairy tales to modern fabulous creatures. Good fascinating stories are always passed down from generation to generation. Topics about giant trolls, wicked ghosts and mysterious detective cases are Grade 4's favourite ones. They made posters or PPT to present their chosen fabulous creatures in front of their peers.

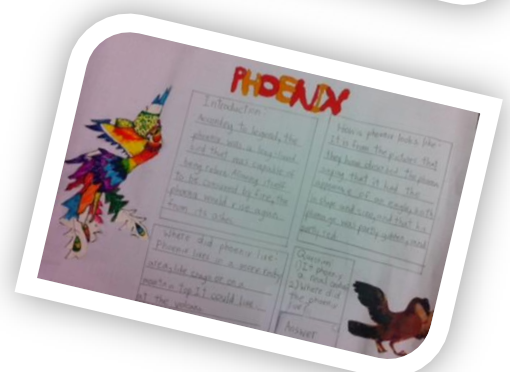
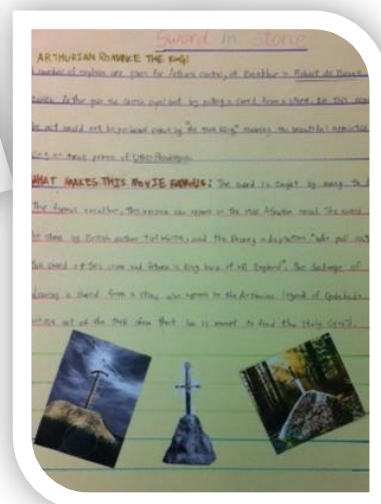
The 4<sup>th</sup> graders were happy to take the challenge of retelling stories in class. A good storyteller should be able to use his/her voice to create different kinds of atmosphere of different scenes and express different kinds of emotion of different characters.



Through acting and presenting, they developed their speaking skills even further.

New stories were added to the retelling story list as students have started writing mysterious stories in their writing classes. They have been working in groups or individually to create their marvelous tales. The teachers are sure that with their hard work and patience, they should be able to develop the required skills to compose great fictions.

Have a look at their posters about different fabulous creatures!





# Grade 5

The 5th graders' second module is about Inventions, and now they are doing the Middle Ages in the third module. But do they know what were invented during the Middle Ages?

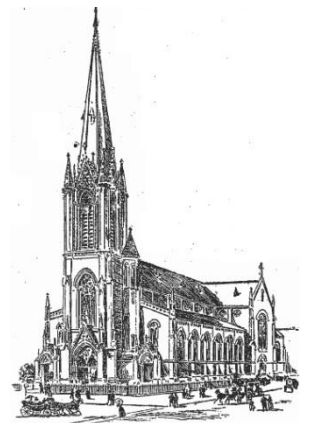


People in the Middle Ages did a lot in advancing human knowledge. We wouldn't have computers and couldn't have sent a man to the moon if we have never had the inventions invented during the Middle Ages. There were six great inventions at that time, namely the heavy plough, liquor, the hour-glass, water mills, eye-glasses

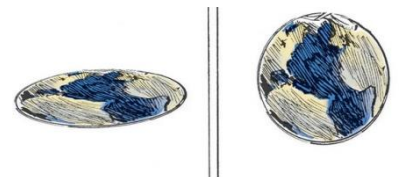


and the printing press. It is believed that when there is an invention, there is a need. Why did people in the Middle Ages need those inventions? How did people lead their lives? Can you tell the answers?

So far what the 5th graders have learnt is little. They know that the Middle Ages in Europe occurred between 500 and 1500 A.D. They can also tell life was very harsh in the Middle Ages, and very few people could read or write. In fact, religion dominated everything people did in their daily life. People in the Middle Ages thought there was little hope for improving their living condition. The only hope that most of them had was their belief that God would make their lives better or at least that life in heaven would be better than life on earth. *Therefore, the real ruler was not the king but the Catholic church.*



Some 5th graders are very interested in studying the Middle Ages. Therefore, go and chat with them. Perhaps you will discover something you have never expected before, like people in the Middle Ages started questioning if the earth was flat. Have you ever asked such a question?



# Grade 6

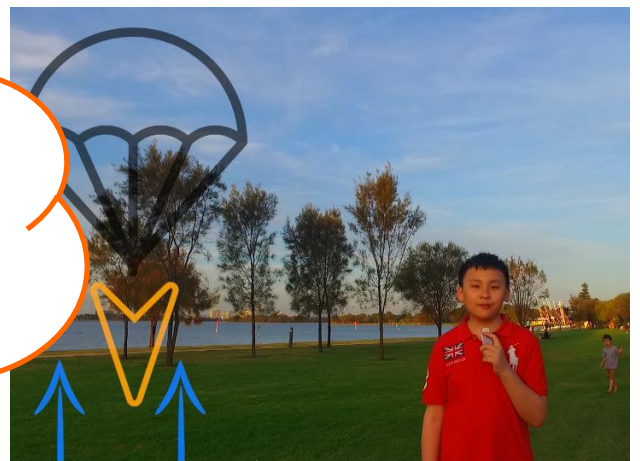
It has come to the end of Module 2. For the end-of-module project, the sixth graders need to conduct an experiment at home and record it after the module. They are expected to follow the scientific steps when they are conducting the experiment. What are the scientific steps? They are:

1. Ask a Question.
2. Do Background Research.
3. Construct a Hypothesis.
4. Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment.
5. Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion.
6. Communicate Your Results.

Let's take a look at the photos below.



We made three parachutes of different sizes and wanted to know which one falls faster.





What colour  
absorbs more



Experiencing Gravity Free Water.  
Look! The water doesn't fall!



We are bending



# ENGLISH PERFORMING ARTS GRADE SIX

## MODULE 1 nurtures students'

empathy for others and understanding of equality and discrimination. Text types used to learn these ranged from verse speaking to prose reading, solo acting to group acting and role-play. Students are able to equip themselves with expressive acting and public speaking skills through a variety of scripts and written works.







**MODULE 2** explores the ethics and morality of science and innovation through persuasive speaking and formal debates. Students develop their higher-level and critical thinking as well as conduct both independent study and collaborative research. Students passionate about debate are able to join the PKC Debate Team, who are now poised to compete in the Grand Finals of the Hong Kong Secondary Schools Debating Competition (Primary Division).



# Writers' Corner

## At the Market

by Jeff Wong 1M

At the weekend my family and I went to Fishy Market, in Taiwan. It was called Fishy Market because almost half of the stalls were selling fish. We bought many fish of course. We also bought fruit, ice-cream, vegetables and chocolate. We were very happy and excited.





## My Neighbourhood by Alice Chen (1P)



My neighbourhood is clean and quiet. There are convenience store, bakery, park, swimming pool and bus stop.

I like my neighbourhood because it is convenient.



## My insect by Cheryl Fan (IC)

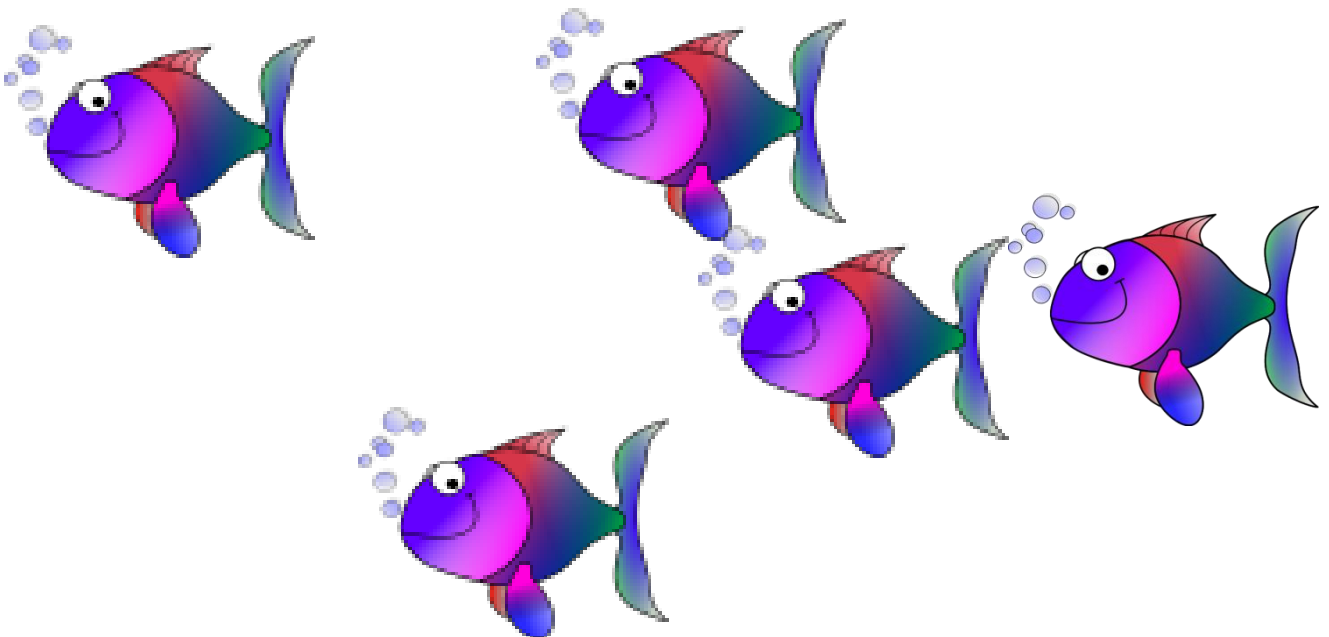
My insect is called Bubble. It has a small head, two big eyes, six long legs, two cute antennae, four beautiful wings and many colourful stripes. It likes to eat a red apple, a green pear and some sweet strawberries.





## A Fishing Trip by Sally Fung (1W)

Last Saturday, I went on a fishing trip with my family. It was rainy and cloudy. We went to Sai Kung. I caught a red fish and I bought a bottle of water. I felt happy and surprised.

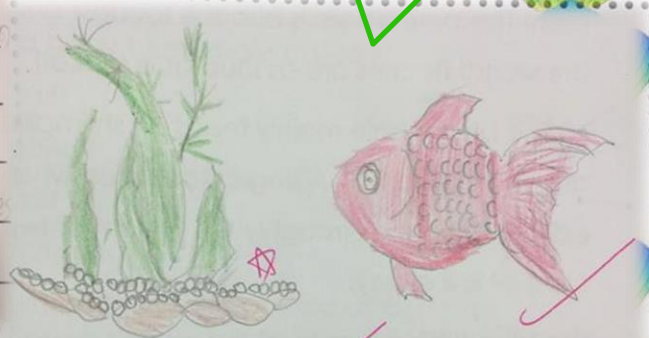


by Charlie Tiing 1B (24)



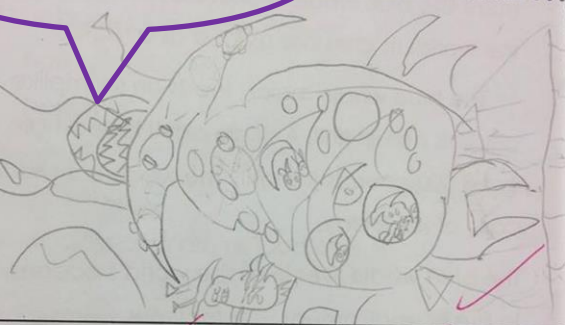
I want to be clownfish. I will lay my eggs in a dark hole. I will put them very very deep, so the other animals cannot see them well. I will also put some stones outside, then other fishes can't go in.

by Matthew To 1B (25)



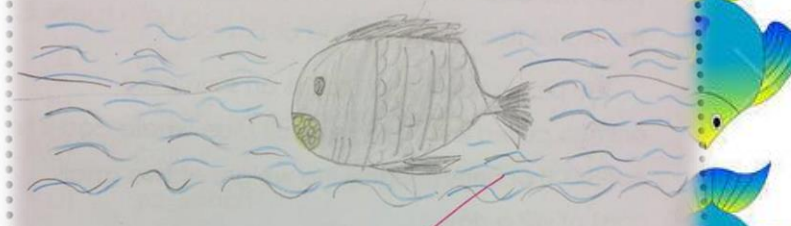
I am a dark red goldfish. I lay my eggs in the aquatic plants. In order to protect my eggs, I will put them in deep of the aquatic plant.

by Declan Cheung 1B (3)



I am Mr Sea Hark. My body is fat. My head looks like a sword and my teeth are very sharp. I lay my eggs on my back. I put my eggs under the seaweeds to protect my eggs.

by Icy Li 1B (17)



I am a tilapia. I lay my eggs in my mouth. I would swim fast to protect my eggs.



# Around the Campus





