



# Rosaryhill School 玫瑰崗學校

**Issue 51**

June 2015

<http://www.rhs.edu.hk>  
E-mail: [info@rhs.edu.hk](mailto:info@rhs.edu.hk)

Newsletter to Parents 學校通訊

## Supervisor's Message

With the increasing popularity of "Life Education", schools, educational institutions and whole countries are increasingly emphasizing the importance of personality growth as well as intellectuality within the scope of school timetables. Recently, it has been developed into a popular subject in the curriculums of many of the schools in Hong Kong.

"Life Education", has evolved in various fields over the past 25 years. The global trend has spread and sowed the seed of this particular subject in the hearts of many learners in various educational institutions throughout South East Asia. For example, in Taiwan it has become a very successful and popular subject and some educational institutions advocate and even set up a "Life Education Centre" in their institutions.

The good character of students should be better nurtured using the ample support of appropriate resources, e.g. teaching materials, manpower, facilities, funds and others. In Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Education Institute and the Chinese University of Hong Kong are typically good examples of such usage. The Chinese University of Hong Kong has promoted and commenced life education to achieve spiritual education goals whereas the Hong Kong Education Institute has set up the Life Education Centre for study.

In future, since we are a Catholic school, the name "Life Education" will not be used, instead, "Spiritual Education" which is synonyms with "Life Education" will be used. We have sufficient resources to develop spiritual education. Geographically, we benefit from the competitive edge of having Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary sections in one location. All three study consecutively. This continuous fifteen years from Kindergarten 1 to Secondary 6 provides us ample time to nurture students and educate them to become willing to take initiative in learning.

The growth of students, from small children through to their teenage years, is mainly concerned with academic advancement. The nurturing of personal growth traits is not adequately catered for. Students' interactive handling skills such as social, anti-adverse capabilities and other character attributes have not been suitably nurtured.

During the Fathers' Council meeting in May, I proposed a greater emphasis be placed on "Spiritual Education". All fathers concurrently agreed to place it as a learning objective of Rosaryhill School for the coming years with an emphasis to be placed upon its importance in the new academic year. In subsequent regular meetings, I also elaborated upon the development direction and issues pertaining to Spiritual Education to two principals and senior teachers of the three sections. Starting from next school year, the teacher development days and seminars with Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary teachers' participation will be focused on areas of Spiritual Education. Spiritual Education teaching materials will be developed and included inside the curriculum to enable students to participate wholeheartedly in this important aspect of learning and human development.

Generally speaking, as educators we should be visionary enough to adopt "spiritual education" as early as practicable, i.e. when the child is still small, since an early beginning means values sowed inside the hearts of young children, will bit by bit, gradually influence their growth and future development which will certainly lead to enormous benefits for both the child and society in the future.

**Fr. Christopher Chor, O.P.**

### Editorial Board

**Honorable Advisor:** Fr. Christopher Chor, O.P. **Chief Editor:** Mr. Sammy Hung (Secondary Section)  
**Editors:** Ms. Josephine Ip (Kindergarten) Ms. Rita Xiong (Primary Section) Mr. Hilton Chan (Secondary Section)



## *Renovation of School Chapel*

For a long time it was in the minds of our students, old students, parents and administrators of the school to start a project to renovate the school chapel in order to improve the spiritual atmosphere of the place. It was the only area of the school that had not been renovated in the 55 years of the school history. Finally on the 30 of June 2014, the school management held a meeting to approve the project and the budget. The project, beside the internal redecoration, it included the change of the sound system, new air-condition system, new lighting system, overhead projectors etc.

The project was offered for public tender, following the EDB standard practice. Finally the projects were awarded to Falcon Engineering Ltd. for a total amount of \$2,288,700.00. The engineering project for the air-con system was prepared by South Investment Cor., a leading company in Hong Kong, own by Mr. Danny Wong, our past student, who did it for free as a contribution to the school.

On the 3 of October 2014, we lunched a "fund raising campaign" among the stock holders of the school: parents, students, past students and Saturdays-Sunday faithful. Through their generous contributions we were able to collect the amount \$836,097.00.

The renovated chapel was inaugurated with an official mass for the staff of the school on the day of the Christmas Party, 19 Dec. 2014. Fr. Secundino Vicente OP, Prior of St. Albert, presided over the blessing ceremony.

Our objective with the fund raising campaign was not so much to cover all the cost as to move the hearts of the people who mind the atmosphere of the place of prayer and may considered to be as their own. In this regard our objectives have exceeded all the expectations. Thank you in my name and in the name of the Fathers council, staff and students of the school.

May God bless you all.

**Fr. Jose Salas**

## *Staff Recollection Day: A Joyful Morning to be together!*

"LET GO!"

On 1 April all the staff of Rosaryhill School had a morning retreat (Recollection Day) given by a Lay Dominican, Miss Janet Choi Ming Fung. The theme was "Let Go", how to centre our life in God and Christ.

The session started with a power point presentation on prayer and meditation, based on verses of the Bible, to focus our lives in God and to spend time with God. Miss Choi led us to understand the importance of doing things by focusing totally in our work and after completing our work to focus in our lives and family and be able to relax and Let Go by placing our trust in the Lord. Miss Choi shared with us his experience to be able to cope with life and work without stress.

Teachers and staff felt relax and at ease and they felt happy to have the opportunity to let aside work and to focus their lives in the Lord! It was a good experience for all of us and in particular for Christians was a good start of preparation for the Holy Week and Easter.





## Principal's Message

### Help Your Child Find their Direction in Life

With "Lightening the way, opening new path" being the theme of the 55th anniversary of our School, we as the teachers and parents may take the chance to reflect on ourselves whether we have helped our children ascertain their direction in life. Teachers primarily focus on imparting knowledge and skills as well as instilling values and morality. Through various teaching activities, children develop their intelligence, establish correct attitude and acquire self-improvement ability, which are essential for their future life journey.

Fellow educators from Children and Youth Services under Hong Kong Family Welfare Society have recently expressed their concern about children and youngsters who are unable to find their direction in life, given their lack of self-esteem, self-confidence and self-understanding. They questioned whether the youngsters recently taking part in the protests and movements were merely following the flow or acting with free will and rational considerations. While I am unable to herein make a judgment, it is well understood that parents worry about their children participating in the protests. Fortunately those optimistic and proactive parents have taken the chance to educate their children and provide guidance. Apart from the role of school and teachers aforementioned, it is strongly believed that families and parents are highly important in their children's life planning process.

Parenting indeed is a career, though there is no resignation, retirement or replacement. The relationship between parents and children is life-long, if not eternal. I have heard parents sigh that parenting is difficult and tiring; attributable to the increasingly complicated society and plentiful resources, which bring upon threats and challenges. Given the easy access to information, children and youngsters have no fear to confront and challenge their parents and teachers. The problem cases in the past used to be confined to dating, fighting and being obsessed with idols etc. New categories added in recent years include on-line game and social media addiction, smart phone attachment and internet bullying. People are confused and prone to go astray in this complex world.

Ms Wang Qiu Ying, counseling teacher, opined that parents are of utmost importance to their children's education and future life. What children need mostly during their early development may not be offered by schools. Parents have a role as the designer of their

children's life, which is irreplaceable. While schools impart knowledge and skills, parents offer affection and passion, and groom their children's aesthetic taste, confidence, ego and vision. It is well perceived that desirable character is a bigger success factor than know-how.

Parents should exploit their children's potential based on their personality and interest, as well as the consideration of what talent will be in demand in the future world. For example, parents can nurture language skills by providing Spanish and French exposure and training, as well as encouraging reading and writing. The golden era for language learning is before 10 years old, hence parents need to cautiously decide their children's learning path and direction. I recently witnessed the cases that parents sent their children to international schools for junior primary education, then drastically moved the children to local mainstream schools. Yet Chinese is very difficult to learn and may not be mastered in a short period of time. As a result, the children's underachievement in Chinese subjects hindered their learning and future development.

Apart from the academic cultivation, parents will need to make a special effort on nurturing children's self-esteem, interpersonal skills and communication ability, so that they are self-confident, kind-hearted and empathetic, being able to understand themselves and others, make friends and get along with them.

There is a Chinese saying that it takes ten years to grow a tree but a hundred years to bring up a generation of good men. Children rely on parents' effort and guidance to grow well and strong.

**Ms Anne Wong**  
Principal





# Chinese Cultural Week

Chinese Cultural Week was held in school between the 4<sup>th</sup> of February till the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. Children had the chance to get familiar with the Chinese New Year customs and traditions by joining different activities such as making glutinous rice balls, having reunion dinner with classmates, writing Spring couplets and so on. PTA from Kindergarten and Primary sections had jointly organized Flower Market activity in school for children. Parents effort and assistance were greatly appreciated. Their support to the Flower Market activity made such activity more pleasant. Father Supervisor, guests, teachers and students enjoyed the lion dance performance during the Chinese New Year Group gathering. PTA volunteers disguised into the "God of Wealth" and distributed red packets to the children. Everyone had great joy during such welcoming party of the Year of Goat.



## Parent-child Activities Day

Kindergarten is the seed-bed where our children start acquiring knowledge and morals, and developing their ideas and potential. Yet, all these merits will not be accomplished without parents' contribution and cooperation at home. Therefore, our school organized the 'Parent-child Activities Day' for all parents in January 2015.



# Games Day

ROSARYHILL

KINDERGARTEN



Games Day was held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January at Aberdeen Sports Ground. More than 1500 parents and children joined this activity. Children started the day by marching in on the sides of the sportground preceding with a dance performance. Parents took beautiful pictures of their children during the performance. Parents and children then joined different activities set up by the teachers. It was a fun and sweaty day, where everyone had great joy.



## Science Museum

Children may encounter different science knowledge on their daily life. In order to enrich such knowledge to our children, we have organised a field trip to the Science Museum. Besides participating in the usual facilities at the museum, we have also joint in the mystical material exhibition. Children have gained a lot of science knowledge after such visit and they had a wonderful time by experiencing and exploring.





## Korea Study Tour

Upper class students joined a 4 days 3 nights study tour to Korea. This trip was full of fascinating and exciting activities. Besides learning about Korean culture, children had also the chance to experience different art and craft production, visiting a local television broadcast and experience different professions. Parents and children enjoyed the tour greatly that they didn't wish to leave.



세계 동양서비스평가 10년 연속 세계 1위  
World's Best Support for 10 Consecutive Years  
새로운 서비스로 행복과 감동을 드리겠습니다





# Educational Excursion

On 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, the primary students had an educational excursion to Tai Tong Holiday Park. They enjoyed a wide variety of recreational programs such as biking, handcrafts, badmintons and rock climbing. The beautiful country scenery and delicious lunch there also provide great experiences to the students.



## Chinese Cultural Day

On 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015, Chinese Culture Day, the primary students hold a variety of activities to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year. Chinese Teachers and student helpers set up different fun booths including Chinese Calligraphy, wishing tree, fishing game.... Thanks to the PTA members, the students could enjoy some traditional Chinese New Year snacks. The playground that day was full of laughter and excitement.





# Visit Hong Kong Science Museum

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015, students from P3 and P4 visited Hong Kong Science Museum. They had a fun tour about amazing materials in their daily lives. Then they visited the exhibition about waste classification. At the end of the tour, the professor in the museum gave a lecture about electricity. The professor conducted some interesting experiments. She even invited some students to be in the experiment! Everyone was amazed. For all the students, the visit to the museum was not only fun but also very educational.



## Hunger Banquet

On 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, the Life Education teacher of primary section held a special activity called Hunger Banquet. At a Hunger Banquet, the place where we sit, and the meal that we eat, are determined by the luck of the draw. This activity provided a chance for the kids to open their eyes and minds: life is not fair. In real life some of us are born into relative prosperity and others into poverty. In addition, what can we do to make this world a fairer place?



# Study Tour

PRIMARY

SECTION



## Taiwan

On 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March, P1 and P2 primary students went to Taiwan study tour. We had a wonderful learning experience in this trip. We went to the Qingjing farm, Ten Drums Cultural Village and night market.

The highlight of our trip is when we went to Qi Xing Guo Xiao (primary school) in Tai Chung. While we were there we watched two student group performances. One was Saxophone and the other one was Flute.

Although the length of the tour was relatively short, the impact and exposure it brought to us was definitely enormous.



## Korea

On 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March, P3 and P4 primary students went to Seoul, Korea for a 4-day study tour. Apart from many fun sites, we visited a local primary school and had a wonderful cultural exchange and learning experience there. The beautiful view, delicious food, unique traditional costumes and vibrant culture together gave us a golden memory that we will never forget!



## Singapore and Malaysia

On 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March, our Primary Five and Six students went on a four-day study tour to Singapore and Malaysia with our teachers. During the tour, our students had great experience at numerous spots such as Night Safari, Universal Studios in Singapore as well as Lego Land in Malaysia. Everyone enjoyed the local cuisine and the time we spent with our friends and teachers.

Most excitingly, we visited several academic centers, like the National University of Singapore, which was one of the top academic campuses in the world. Our students also made their own Panlan cake under a local baker's guidance and created their own art crafts with wax and dye. During these two DIY workshops, our students not only had great enjoyment, but also showed their great creativity and cooperation with others.

This enjoyable tour really broadened our students' horizons and it was surely an unforgettable experience in their life time.





## An Interview with Mr. Robert Kwan



As we all know, Mr. Robert Kwan is the current Principal of the Secondary Section of Rosaryhill School. After serving the school for thirty-seven long years, he is finally ready to pass on the mantle to someone else. Though he may soon be gone from the campus grounds, his memory will linger and his influence on the school will still be felt. His endeavours to improve the school life of both students and teachers will never be forgotten.

So, as a gesture of remembrance, three students from class 5A (Wong Yee Lok, Alvin Wong and Kimberly Ng) interviewed Mr. Kwan.

**Student:** What are the gains and losses of being a School Principal?

**Mr. Kwan:** Being a School Principal is quite rewarding. I am able to provide my school with a higher calibre of service, improve the school environment as I see fit and deepen the mutual understanding between me, my colleagues and my students. I can also alter school policies that I find unreasonable, though I am a bit regretful in that I wasn't as thorough about that as I had wished. The only downside of my position is the reduction in the time I could spend with my family. But overall, the gains outweigh the losses.

**Student:** There are quite a number of problems (e.g. decrease in student enrollment in secondary schools, sudden changes in educational policies) plaguing many schools recently. As the School Principal, it must surely have been rather stressful on you...

**Mr. Kwan:** The job of School Principal comes packaged with constant pressure, as I have the final say in the majority of school matters. Nevertheless, I have confidence in my ability to make the wisest decisions based on both the suggestions of my colleagues and my own reasoning.

All schools in Hong Kong are facing the problems brought on by the decrease in student enrollment. There was a widespread shrinkage of classes in secondary schools, which did give me a minor headache as it could damage the teachers' income and affect their families. Relocating the school might help, but it would be fairly disrespectful to our alumni and their memories of their alma mater. During the past three years I have tried my utmost to minimize the losses, to some avail.

There have been many drastic changes made to educational policies in Hong Kong in the past two decades, including 'School-Based Management' and the 'New Senior Secondary Academic Structure'. Those huge changes have had an equally huge impact on the school and my workload has multiplied as a direct result. Fortunately, I have been in different positions at school before I became the Principal, so I have at least a general understanding of the difficulties that members of the faculty need to deal with, which made my job a bit smoother.

**Student:** Do you have any kinds of expectations for the school after your departure?

**Mr. Kwan:** Of course! I expect a lot from both the school and my students! I wish for the school to continue providing the best, diversified education possible; a healthy learning environment for the students; and teaching and learning that allows students to better care for themselves and strengthen their moral character.

**Student:** What about the students? Do you have any messages for us?

**Mr. Kwan:** It would please me if you could all invest in your studies with joy in your hearts, develop your interests and potential, interact with your fellow classmates in harmony and most importantly, grow up to be kind and upstanding members of society. I will miss you all very dearly.





# Integrated Learning Week

Integrated Learning Week has been a part of our school "culture" for over 10 years. It aims to provide different opportunities for students to gain unforgettable learning experiences that supplement the basic school curriculum. During the week of 26-30 January 2015, we arranged many interesting and meaningful visits, camps and study tours for our S1-S5 students.

In the junior form levels there was the S.1 Personal Growth Camp, the S.2 Ocean Park visits, Wetland Park visits, Chinese Heritage visits and explorations of the Mai Po Nature Reserve site. S3 students participated in the Adventure Based Counselling Camp in Sai Kung and Sheung Chau. All of the activities were designed to help students improve their self-discipline, be socially aware, physically fit, and be able to appreciate culture.

This year we held 2 educational camps, 3 study tours and 2 social services group for our senior form students. These tours and camps included the Malaysia Eco Study Tour, Taiwan Eco Study Tour, Seoul Art & Cultural Study Tour, Sports Camp, Astronomy & Environment Education Camp, Elderly Academy and Social Service Workshop. All of the activities enabled our

students to develop an understanding of the ample knowledge that is to be gained from exploring our rapidly-changing society and the world around them. The students also experienced the importance of positive self-esteem, team work and showing concern for the community and others.

The tremendous coordination, planning and preparations required for handling about 500 students is of course a demanding task. Special thanks to all the teachers for their hard work. Their efforts have allowed students to grow and learn in new and interesting ways.





# Academic Week

'It's amazing how we can learn without resorting to textbooks only!' This is one of the students' comments regarding Academic Week. The Academic Week (2nd Term) was held from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015 to enable students to develop and maintain a burning interest in learning. It provided our students with chances to learn through a range of interesting activities such as the Inter-class Science Spelling Competition (Final) for S1 to S3 students, the Science Quiz for S4 and S5 students and the Fitness Program organized by the Science KLA.

Furthermore, the Chinese Language Carnival was organized in the School Hall by the Chinese Language Department and the Putonghua Choral Speaking Competition was run at the auditorium by the Putonghua Department. We hope that through a wide variety of activities, students can cultivate an immense interest in various academic areas, thus becoming more motivated, active learners.



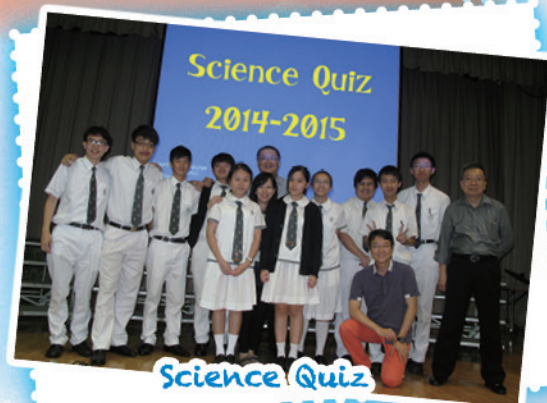
獎品換領處



Chinese Language Carnival



Inter-class Science Spelling Competition



Science Quiz



Putonghua Choral Speaking Competition



Fitness Program



# RHS Sports Tournament

The 13<sup>th</sup> RHS Sports Tournament was held on 8-10 April 2015 at Sun Yat San Memorial Park Sports Centre. We invited 5 schools to participate in each event and are pleased to have had 22 secondary schools participate in 7 different events this year. The members of the Sports Association spent more than a month to prepare the 3-day competition, from inviting schools to join, arranging the competition schedule, preparing the equipment, to decorating the stadium.

At the closing ceremony, the SA invited one of the founders of the sports association, Mr. Jonathan Kwok to be the Guest of Honor. He shared the rationale of establishing the association and we will miss him after he retires.

After three days of intense competition all the champions were decided. The Rosaryhill school team won the 1<sup>st</sup> runner up in Boy's Basketball and 2nd runner up in Boy's Badminton. Congratulations to both teams. Let's hope all our school teams will keep on training hard and get better results next year.



## Good News

Congratulations to our Liberal Studies students who received an excellent performance award in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Students' Top Ten News Election organized by the Hok Yau Club. The event aims to enhance secondary school pupils' civic awareness and critical thinking.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Students' Top Ten News Election comprises four competitions, namely

- (a) Top Ten News Election (First Round);
- (b) Project Learning Competition;
- (c) News Commentary Competition; and
- (d) Top Ten News Election (Final Round).

Four S5A students (Wong Yee Lok, Zhang Guier, Zheng Wan Rong and Zheng Wan Ying) won the First runner-up in the Project Learning Competition and our school was awarded the Golden Award for its overall performance as we were the best performing school among the 118 participating secondary schools.

Congratulations to S.5A Kimberly Ng who won the most creative award (Junior Category) in Hong Kong's Top Story competition 2014 organized by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) Radio 3 and South China Morning Post (SCMP) Young Post.

After 2 months searching for Hong Kong's outstanding original stories, the judging panelists selected 8 prize-winners in Junior and Adult Category. This year, the theme of the English writing competition is "Reborn" and all contestants had to submit works that were relevant to Hong Kong by way of subject matter, characters or setting. Kimberly has put her creative ideas into expressive words. Her story "Atypical Reincarnation" which combines the history of transgenderism with the idea of reincarnation was finally selected as the best, creative story among all entries in Junior Category.



## KINDERGARTEN

This year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> year of the Rosaryhill Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Association and same as with the prior years, the Association has organized a lot of activities throughout the year. We would like to extend the gratitude to father, principal, teachers, the PTA Executive Committee and, of course all of you for your participation, support and contribution.

### Pearson Tests of English (PTE)

(Oct, 2014-May, 2015)

PTE for children is a programme to widen children's English learning experiences in their early childhood stage with fun and interesting course modules covering listening, reading and writing. There are 78 students participating in this 24-lessons world-wide recognized programme this year.



### Games Day

(Feb, 2015)

The Games day was held in a delightful sunny day at the Aberdeen Sports Grounds. Children enjoyed a fun and a healthy exercise day with their parents. Thank you and much appreciated to the teachers for bringing us so many joyful games and special thanks to the parents who participated in this activity to have fun with their kids as well as those parent volunteers who helped to take a lot of lovely and memorable photos.



### Reading to Kids Scheme

(Mar – Jun, 2015)

Reading with our children not only invoke their imagination and creativity, but more importantly, help to build a stronger bonding between you and your children, and let them develop reading as a habit at their earlier age. With the new library opened on 2/F where we have received donation of story books, it shall surely benefits our children from reading more varieties of story books. Appreciation to all the parents who have donated the books to the school library as well as those parent volunteers who help to wrap the books and put them in order.



### Parent-Child Activities Day

(Feb - March, 2015)

This is a very unique opportunity for parents to experiment their children's class activities which allowed them to better understand their school life and to exchange views with the teachers for the overall benefits of their children's development and help them to achieve success.





## Primary Section

This year Parent-Teacher Association helped preparing for the school's Christmas Party by putting up decorations and by purchasing little gifts at the Hong Kong Disneyland for all students. Without a doubt, students had a lot of fun during the party even before their Christmas holiday started.

On 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January, Primary Section held the Annual Athletic meeting. The members of PTA and parents volunteers helped with the award presenting, judging, lunch delivering. Thanks to their effort and dedication, the athletic meeting was a huge success and all the students had a wonderful time on the sports field!



PTA also helped organised the Flower Market at school as well as the Chinese Culture Day, two consecutive days of celebration for Chinese New Year. The Flower Market was held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Parent volunteers came to school to help set up booths for the market on the school ground floor. All students spent some time at the market as many made their purchases. With PTA sponsoring the various kinds of festive cakes including Chinese New Year cake, students were able to enjoy such delicacies in their classrooms as part of their celebration.





## SECONDARY SECTION

Each year the PTA runs various kinds of activities such as Parents Talk, Teacher, Student Day, Chinese Flower Market, Lunar New Year Gathering, Essay Writing Competition, One Day Trip, etc. We hope all of our students and parents can enjoy these activities and enhance their friendship and family togetherness.



This year, the Lunar New Year Gathering featured a special lion dance performance. Other enjoyable activities included the half-day sports events such as badminton, bowling, table-tennis, etc. These events group parents together who can then share their opinions and feelings.



For the Parents Talk, we invited an experienced speaker to share some useful skills with parents on how to deal with pressures relating to S6 students and the public examination. The parents' feedback was very encouraging.

The Essay Writing Competition is one of the most anticipated events of each year. The number of participants is always pleasing to see. This year many students got excellent results in both languages. I would like to thank the parents and the teachers who took time to be the judges of the Essay Writing Competition.



For the outing in May, we went to Tai Po Waterfront Park for kite flying on the first half day trip and Tsim Bei Tsui Wetlands to study the wetland ecosystem and view the scenery across the border of Shekou on the other half day trip. Parents, teachers and students enjoyed the seafood lunch in a famous Seafood Restaurant in Lau Fau Shan and felt very good. We expect more parents and their children will join this activity next year.

