



Writing Scripters

Website: <http://web.tkps.edu.hk/>
Email: writing_scripters@yahoo.com.hk

The English Department Tin Ka Ping Secondary School March 2009 Issue 9

Is Our Collective Memory Disappearing?

6S Tong Chi Chiu, Vincent Tse On Yee, Olivia



Many people have left their footprints in old buildings which have created memories for them. Whenever a building, which has stood for a certain period of time, is proposed to be demolished, some people try their utmost to show their objection to it. This is a part of their 'collective memory'. Yet, is the 'collective memory' really collective?

The removal of Queen's Pier caused a debate. At that time, people tried to preserve it since they thought it was a part of Hongkongers' 'collective memory' again. They spared no efforts to protect it by marching and even going on hunger strike. However, do you realize that people who objected were all middle-aged or older? The memory of Queen's Pier is in fact just for some older people, but not the young teenagers. How can we state that it is a part of Hongkongers' collective memory?



It has memory for some older generations but how about the newer one?



Some people misuse the term 'collective memory' as a political weapon to preserve all the traditional buildings they love no matter whether it is the wish of the majority. Yet, is our concept about the term 'collective memory' affected by their acts? In fact, collective memory is a term coined by Maurice Halbwachs, who separated the notion from individual memory. Collective memory is feelings, things, events, and even thoughts that can be shared, passed on and also constructed by a group, or modern society. Yes, cherishing our collective memory of the past is indispensable, but does it mean that we must keep all old buildings without reservations?



Not only the old buildings, the events and feelings that we experienced and our spirit are also necessary for our collective memory. For instance, we experienced disquiet and anxiety after 1997; we also faced helplessness and difficulties during the battle against

SARS in 2003. Despite all the difficulties, we were enlivened by our mutual help and care, diligence and persistence. Were it not for our memory of our past struggles, our good inner qualities would not have lasted. In fact, all these special events are the most vital part of our collective memory since they are common in our memory and can be passed on to our next generations. These are our real collective memory.



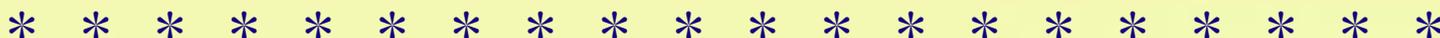
During SARS, we experienced helplessness. Yet, Hongkongers were willing to battle against it. This event and feeling are our collective memory.



Do you have a clear concept of 'collective memory'? At the time of preserving the old buildings for the reason of 'collective memory', we have to ponder over whether it is the collective memory of all Hongkongers or just the individual memory of a minority of people. Besides, we should attach just as much importance to cherishing the most vital part of our collective memory—our events, feeling and spirit.



Our collective memory is the person, the writing or the spirit of perseverance behind them.



Our New Teacher - Mr. Wariner



2E Leung King Man, Nicole

This is Mr. WARINER, Joseph Peter Truman, the new NET teacher of our school. He is 35 and he comes from England. Mr. Wariner lives in Tai Wai now with his wife and a girl dog called Florence. He loves his dog as a daughter, and taking care of his pet is one of his hobbies.

Some students think that Mr. Wariner is very tall. Of course they are right. He's 190 cm tall, and he must be the tallest in Tin Ka Ping Secondary School!

Do you want to know what Mr. Wariner's favourites are? Let's see!

Mr Wariner's Favourites

- Subject : History
- Color : blue and dark green
- Food : Japanese food and Thai food
- Sports : football
- Football team : Aston Villa (England)
- Music : pop music and classical music
- Movie : funny movies

* If you want to know more about Mr. Wariner's favourites, you could chat with him at lunch! *

When asked about an unforgettable experience, Mr. Wariner has shared one with us.

'I climbed Mount Fuji at night, and watched the sun come up. It was very beautiful and I will never forget it!' said Mr. Wariner.

Mr. Wariner has been a teacher for 10 years already. He has taught in secondary and primary schools in England, Japan and Hong Kong before. That means he is a very experienced teacher. Do you want to know what his first feeling was when he came to our school?

'It was good! All teachers and students smiled at me. It made me feel warm and welcome!' said Mr. Wariner. This is what he felt. What is your feeling to Mr. Wariner?

Lastly, Mr. Wariner told us that he is looking forward to speaking English with all people in our school. I think our teachers and students would like to do so.

After reading this interview report, I hope you all know more about our new teacher. Try to share your own experience with him and make friends with him! You will find that it isn't difficult to talk in English. Enjoy your school life with Mr. Wariner!

'Get all the education you can, and then see the world.'

An interview with Mrs. Ison

6S Ho Ka Ho, Leo

The word 'examinations' pops up in everyone's mind in Hong Kong when it comes to education. In Hong Kong, examinations play a vital role in students' studies as they may influence our future enormously. Nevertheless, is education equal to examinations? Mrs. Ison kindly discussed this question in comparison with Hong Kong students and Australian students. As we all know, Mrs. Ison has left TKPSS after almost 7 years as our NET teacher so maybe she has some insights into these issues, from both viewpoints!



To start with, Mrs. Ison discussed the most obvious difference between Hong Kong students and Australian students. She thinks that while Hong Kong students learn mainly for exams, Australian students strike a balance between learning how to tackle exams as well as how to live. 'Hong Kong students focus so much on school work. On the other hand, Australian students seem to balance their life more — they study hard and play hard: they enjoy sports, arts, and other activities out of school. Maybe this is because exams are not the only way to get ahead, though school exams are, obviously, important,' said Mrs. Ison.

'I think education is life-long; learning in school is only a part of it,' remarked Mrs. Ison. 'We can study and learn all our life, but not only learn for exams. We may as well participate in some activities we love in order to extend our experiences,' she elaborated. Perhaps you may hesitate because taking part in activities is time-consuming, which means less time for studies. But Mrs. Ison disagrees. 'Hong Kong students usually suffer from a lack of sleep, so they should learn about quality time, but not quantity: Study intensively, focus well and have free time. Try not to spend too long on something that you can complete in a shorter time. You can do this if you are rested and have enough sleep,' she explained.



No matter what the differences between Hong Kong students and Australian students are, more effective education must be better. The question is—which one is more effective? 'I can't say which is better, just like you can't compare apples and pears! They are just different!' she answered with a vivid idiom. 'We can learn from each other. Australian students can learn the work habits of Hong

Kong students, that is, they can be more diligent; Hong Kong students can try to manage their time better and extend life experiences outside school like Australian students. Even though many parents in Hong Kong pressure their children to study diligently, students should

try to develop talents as well. Your talents may be unrelated to school work!' added Mrs. Ison. As the saying goes, just keep your own way, no matter what people say. Why don't we follow our minds? Why are Hong Kong students so exam-orientated?



'Because the cultures are different!' she exclaimed at once. 'Australia is a multi-cultural country. Some parents in Australian use different approaches from those in Hong Kong and let their children make their own choices about



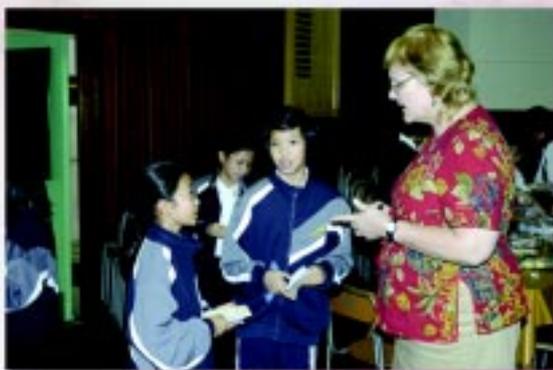
their studies and aims in life by guiding them and making suggestions for them. Students choose and then are responsible for their actions. 'Actually, Australians believe in learning through life and education all the way through. It is not a problem if you go to university at 40 to get a degree, and training in a company is regarded as a sort of education, and is part of the job. Different kinds of education such as taking part in activities, playing sports, volunteering and seeing new places cannot give you money, but they build you up!' she

emphasized. From her sharing, we certainly perceive that textbooks are important, but broadening our horizons is equally valuable in our life ahead.

It seems focusing too much on exams cannot give us all-rounded education, but what can Hong Kong students do to equip themselves for a globalized world?' IT can help, using the Internet... Be aware of everything around you, read and ask questions. Try to be in charge of your learning by extending experiences and taking part in different activities. Don't expect everybody to help you if you truly want to be an independent learner!' she added seriously.



Yet, we realize that Mrs. Ison has made a few changes in her life—she has been teaching in seven other schools and universities in Asia and Europe. For TKPSS students, she has a lot of affection. Because of this passion as a teacher, she has some comments for us to find our orientation in life. 'Students in TKPSS are wonderful! Their work habit is amazing and they are so diligent. What they have to do now is nothing more than extend their experiences. They merely need to follow their passions and interests and then they can develop their unique talents and potentials. After that, try to



contribute to society throughout your life, try to make society better! After all, giving a helping hand to the needy is our responsibility!' she said. 'Never forget to find interesting things in life and laugh more! But right now, your first task is the exams you have to take as teenagers!' she reminded.

'Get all the education you can, and then see the world,' said Mrs. Ison before the end of the interview. Frankly speaking, I think Mrs. Ison is right. Examinations are only a part of whole-person education. If we want to have sounder minds and richer lives, we should take part in different meaningful activities, like leadership training and volunteering work, but without affecting our school work. In this way, we can see the world, open our eyes and enjoy our precious life more!

Are You a Smart User of Television?

6S Tse On Yee, Olivia

Nowadays, television is no longer a luxury. Everyone owns it and is familiar with it. In short, television has become an indispensable part of our life. Meanwhile, haven't you pondered over its effects to you? Or is it just one of your pastimes?

Firstly, television is, no doubt, a rich resource of knowledge in that it provides information and ideas in different aspects such as technology and health. It provides a channel for us to contact and equip ourselves with all-round knowledge.

In addition, television enhances the communication of the whole world and also among people. It brings before our eyes things that happen far away from us. For instance, from the TV we would be able to learn things going on in the post-quake Sichuan. We know the situation and stories of victims. Besides, plots of the television programmes could usually be stocks of conversation for people, especially those of different generations. Thus, it greatly maintains the relationship among people.

On top of these, television is an entertainment. Many people treat it as a pastime to relieve their stress in daily life. Some entertaining programmes such as drama series and comedies can really allow them to relax.

However, owing to this relaxing mindset, we seldom reflect on the contents of the programmes. Unlike reading books, programmes are played continuously and we are playing a passive role when watching it. The value and ideas promoted are thus easily stamped into our minds.



Unethical physical punishment, which is basically *schadenfreude* (a German word that means obtaining enjoyment from the trouble of others). Since viewers gain delight in the process, they would gradually think there is no problem with such practice.

It would be a vicious cycle as producers would think there is no problem producing improper programmes as long as viewers have fun.

Without deliberation while watching television, we can be greatly influenced by profoundly negative effects. We will lack independent and critical thinking, which is always necessary for us. However, I think it is not intelligent of us to deprive its benefits for this reason.

Certainly, the concerned authorities have the responsibility to monitor the programmes strictly. As for ourselves, we have to think thoroughly and judge the values carefully before accepting them.

Remember, never become a passive receiver of ideas. Be a smart TV user.



How Body Language Leads You To Success



4A Ngo Keng Fai, William

Did this ever happen to you? When you make a presentation in class, despite your great effort, everybody looks away, chats as if you were not there, or even falls dead asleep. When it is the other group's turn, the situation completely changes - the audience is spellbound by their performance! One of the reasons of such a big difference may be the use of body language.



Body language, gestures and actions the body does to express ideas and emotions, is hardwired in each man's brain at birth. For instance, head nodding is attached to the meaning of 'yes' and smiling represents happiness. During childhood, we learn even more complicated gestures, sometimes according to our culture. Japanese bow when greeting people, westerners kiss each other on the cheek and almost every culture regards the middle-finger-raised as an insult. Learning to recognize and use body language is essential for every single person. It is the main key to good communication, and good communication means a better chance to achieve success in different cases. Imagine you could not head-nod. How could you secretly say 'yes' to your classmate during the lesson when no sound can be made?

Therefore, body language is important to us. The problem is, not everyone is good at body language. Take Hong Kong students as an example. In Hong Kong, students are used to giving speeches with notes. Although this leads to a smoother presentation, the hands may be occupied by the paper and no gestures can be made. According to a research, more than 80% of the information our brain receives comes via eyes, compared with 10% via ears. In other words, it is far easier for a person to understand your meaning if you include some visual elements in your presentation, like body language. For Hong Kong students with hands occupied, they cannot maximize their quality of presentations because, as said before, they rely on notes. It turns out that the audience may not be able to get the intended message completely, which of course, in these cases, lead to lower marks.



Body language has been proved essential. So now, the only thing left is to master it. But how?

First, learn to control your body, especially your hands and your face when talking. Try to make more facial expressions and do more actions with your hands, especially while elaborating ideas. For example, put up your finger when you are listing important points; put your hands apart when you mean 'big'; put your thumb up when you mean 'good'. You will find that the audience is far more concentrated.

Second, try not to hold your notes in your hands while presenting. Find somewhere to put them—a desk, for example. The key is to keep your hands free for gestures. You will naturally have many actions then. Some people cannot leave notes. Without notes, they panic. In this case, try to hold your notes as far as you can from your eyes and not to look at it. Write down points only, if you find yourself over relying on the notes. Naturally, you will talk more fluently.

REMEMBER: Body language eases your success!

The Magic of Perseverance - Story of Jolin Tsai

6S Ho Ka Ho, Leo

Under the spell of materialism and comfortable life, teenagers nowadays give up easily when encountering difficulties. As they are the mainstays of the future society, it is indispensable for them to learn the 'never-say-die' spirit. Now, let's read the story of Jolin Tsai, a popular singer in Taiwan, to see whether you have any insights!



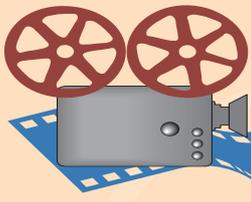
After engaging in her career in the entertainment industry, Jolin has faced a myriad of hardship. At first, she was quite popular and because of her lovable face, she was named 'Lad killer'. However, some people remarked that her singing skill was lousy and she had a lawsuit with her CD company at the same time. What was more, great pressure from the academy was added on her because she was still studying at university. Of course, to an unsophisticated singer, all those incidents were unendurable bitter blows.

To many people, they would quit if they had the same experience as Jolin. But Jolin didn't. She went on studying diligently in university and she started enhancing her singing skill to cater for the tastes of the public as well. Even if she didn't know how to dance at first, she learnt dancing very hard to equip herself for the entertainment industry. After her self-improvement, she released a new album in 2003, with the apprehension whether the public might accept her then.

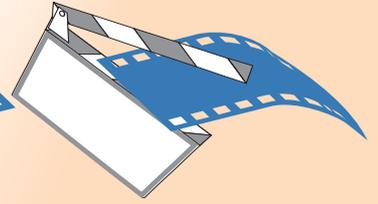
Amazingly, her album got huge success that year. Three hundred and thirty thousand albums were sold in Taiwan and many people wondered how she could achieve such glorious success. Her change was astounding — she sang better and danced well. The successful release of that album was the turning point of her career. After that, she hasn't left off further improving herself. In 2006, once she practised dancing for her new song 'Dancing Diva', she got hurt. But she had no grumble and continued practising for half a year, adding some incredibly challenging steps. Her effort got noticed and appreciated by the public prevailingly that year. She was regarded as a role model for learning persistence and perseverance in Taiwan!

'If you think you can, you can' is Jolin's motto. 'Maybe you don't appreciate Jolin's singing skill, but you must admire her personality and tenacity!' one professional singer remarked. From her story, we clearly realize that we merely need to do our best if we want to succeed. When facing difficulties, why don't we pay effort to solve them? As an encouragement, her persistence and perseverance will be always on my mind!





Film Recommendations



2A Choi Man Ting 3C Liu Tsz Kwan, Destiny

Many teenagers in Hong Kong like watching movies because different sorts of movies can give teenagers different impressions, and most of which are good. Do you know which movie our teachers, Ms Wong Wing Chi and Ms Wong Pui Ki like most?

Ms Wong Wing Chi's favourites

Which movie do you like? Why?

Ms Wong Wing Chi says her favorite movie is Harry Potter, because the story is really interesting and exciting! What's more, the story is about magic. As we never come across anything about magic in our daily life, stories about magic can always raise our interests and are stunning! She can't believe the scenes made by computer can be so real, as if magic really existed!



Which movie will you recommend to F.1 students? Why?

Having a lot of sound effects as well as melodious music, the film 'Sound of music' is highly recommended by Miss Wong Wing Chi to all F.1 students. As numerous F.1 students like listening to music, she thinks that this film suits their taste and they will surely love it! She also says that learning English and looking at how the kids build up a harmonious relationship with their father are important. We can get some insights from the movie!



Ms Wong Pui Ki's favourites

If you need to recommend a movie to teenagers, which movie will you recommend? Why?



Ms Wong Pui Ki recommends a movie called "Nanny McPhee" because she finds that there are some elements that teenagers nowadays should learn in the movie. First, teenagers should learn to be respectful. They have to listen to what others say and they should respect their teachers and parents. Second, teenagers should learn about courtesy. They should have good manner to others. The third is responsibility. She thinks that teenagers should know they have to bear the consequences of their behavior and thus they should think before they act.

What is the movie about?

The story is about a group of children who are so ill-behaved that all governesses run away. Nanny McPhee comes to them. She is able to take control of the naughty children with magic and help their poor daddy to manage the family very well. When the children learn to behave properly, Nanny McPhee starts to become beautiful. This movie is suitable for everybody. Not only is the story funny, but there are also some touching scenes. It is a succinct and warm work.

EDITORIAL BOARD

PUBLISHER : The English Department
Tin Ka Ping Secondary School
ADVISORS : Ms Lau Wai Man, Mr Joseph Wariner,
Ms Sum Kit Ming, Mr Lee Yan Chun,
Ms Cheung Wing Yee

GUEST EDITOR : Ho Ka Ho 6S

REPORTERS : Members of Writing Scripters

Writing Scripters, Issue 9, March, 2009

WRITING SCRIPTERS IS THE ENGLISH BULLETIN FOR ALL THE MEMBERS OF TIN KA PING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Writing Scripters is available online at <http://web.tkpss.edu.hk/>

Contact email: writing_scripters@yahoo.com.hk