

TINspiration

2010-2011 Issue 2



Dream a Dream
of
Excellence

Tin Ka Ping Secondary School

A Message from the Principal

“Honey”, is the joyous reason to celebrate this new volume of TINspiration. The collective effort of its school members has produced its own honey. The honey is sweeter than any honey that can be produced by bees. It represents the hard work of students and teachers that produced a sweet bountiful harvest of achievements for the students and their school.



In addition to our students, real bees worked hard to produce the 50 kilograms of honey that has been collected by our gardener Mr. Tse. This honey is shared and enjoyed among teachers, students and parents. Some of this honey was donated, by student volunteers, to aid the mentally disabled. Their generosity of their time and honey is greatly appreciated. The bee's honey, collected by our gardener, garnishes the true honey that is the well-deserved achievements of our students.



Our students have excelled on multiple fronts over the past school year. They have earned awards and merits for their accomplishments in the Chinese language, English language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, public speaking, music, trampolining, swimming and other sports. Notable mention must be given to the Girls Volleyball Grade B and the Boys badminton Grade B; Champions of their respective sports in the inter-school competition in the Tai Po and North District areas.

The past year would not be complete without mentioning the Boys Basketball Grade B. In their championship game, our Boys Basketball Team was locked in an epic battle. It was a very close game, but we lost by one point. The trophy belonged to the other team, but we walked away with a metaphorical trophy; forged out of friendship, respect and solidarity in school spirit. Nearly 150 students attended the championship game, to cheer our team on. They began to weep when the final buzzer rang seeing that one point deficit. However, they left the stadium with their heads high, and hearts filled with respect. I commend the students for the way they took this loss.

Andy Choi (6S) is an exemplary student who was chosen as one of the Hok Yau Club (2010-11) Top Ten Outstanding Student Leaders in Hong Kong. The selection process was long and strict that took approximately 6 months of trials and interviews against more than 300 excellent high achieving candidates across Hong Kong.

The school has crossed a milestone by adapting English as the medium of instruction for all form one classes. There were some concerns and challenges in adapting such an English intensive curriculum; however, the form one classes have performed beyond expectations. Consequently, the school was further recognized in the greater community. The sweet bounty of honey is the result of dedicated staff and diligent hard working student bees.

Our students love to write and work hard to write well. With the help of their teachers, the students have compiled this new volume of TINspiration. This jar of honey, that is TINspiration, is presented to you. When I read these articles, by these aspiring writers, I was often moved by their sincere feelings and experiences. I now present these articles for you to read and enjoy.

We cordially invite comments from the education community to enhance the writing skills of our students. Thank you.



Colors

1A Wong Cho Yiu

Red, green, yellow, blue ... there are many colors in the world. Actually, color is not only a tool for visual perception; they also represent our feelings. The rainbow is the prettiest, the most charming and fascinating collection of colours.

Red is a warm color – it shows zeal, enthusiasm and adornment. When it comes to red, a scene full of ‘warmth’ and ‘hug’ will pop up in my mind. When love is around us, we would feel warm and we want to hug others to share our happiness. Orange, it is like sunshine and a person who is always smiling under the sun. If orange was a human, he must be a kind and pleasant one, making everyone laugh!

The third color of a rainbow is yellow, which is the sharpest. It represents hope, wish and desire that drives us all. Besides, the positive purport also comes with green color. Green is the spokesperson of nature.

People who like green care about the environment and the balance of ecosystem in the world. They emphasize land preservation and natural resources.

Conversely, blue is a cold color. It is unpleasant, disagreeable and filled with fret. It makes people feel disappointed and cool like the cold, dark blue of the night sky. I feel unconcerned, cheerless and gloomy when I see things in blue. The last color is purple. Purple is a reflection of romance. It gives us ideas and impression. Also, purple gives us an unforgettable scene.

Can you find a color that can represent your personality? Do you know more about yourself? Color is imagination, originality and creativity.



NEW ENDING OF NARNIA

1B Liu Tak Man

After Aslan died, Lucy and Susan were very sad and so they cried. A single tear dropped onto Aslan’s face from Lucy’s sad eyes. As if by magic - Aslan roared!

Aslan’s eyes opened when Lucy and Susan saw this scene. They were very surprised and excited; but they continued to cry. They hugged him and shed new tears of happiness.

‘Daughters of Eve, we must help Edmund and Peter to fight against the White Witch,’ Aslan said softly. After that, Aslan roared very loudly. All stone creatures were turned to life and moved again.

Aslan led a huge army to help Peter and Edmund to fight against the White Witch’s army.

The four children fought against the White Witch together.

‘Give up! You can’t defeat us!’ the four children declared firmly.

They couldn’t kill her but they broke the White Witch’s magical stone knife. At that moment, the White Witch fainted.

When she awoke, she saw Aslan and hugged him immediately. Lucy, Susan, Peter and Edmund looked very confused standing there. What was happening? Aslan then explained that the White Witch was Aslan’s wife.

A long time ago, the White Witch went to a cave. She saw a stone knife floating in the air. She reached for the stone knife and took it with her hands. She didn’t remember anything after that.

Finally, Aslan and White Witch became the King and Queen of Narnia. Aslan let the four children live there forever as royalty. Therefore, they stayed in Narnia until they were old.



THE SUMMER BRIDGING COURSE

1C Wong Lok Yiu

Great changes in life can make people feel nervous. As a secondary one student, I was about to enter a new school and environment. I had to say goodbye to my primary school and enter Tin Ka Ping Secondary School. This challenge did not discourage me when I attended the summer bridging course, I quickly adapted to secondary school life!



During the summer bridging course, I met a teacher who had just completed her secondary school education at Tin Ka Ping Secondary School, Ms Tang. Her friends call her Emily. Ms Tang is a kind person. She has long hair but I have never seen her tied up her hair in a ponytail. She is tall and thin, too. Apart from English lessons, she also taught us how to do morning exercises. After the first time I did the morning exercise, I thought I could do it better next time. I felt happy and was interested in the summer bridging course.

In the English lessons, I like doing listening exercises most because it made me feel relaxed while I was doing listening exercises. Sometimes, I would imagine how good it would be if more listening exercises had been arranged for us! The most memorable moment was when a cockroach crawled under my classmate's desk, I was scared of it - but it will never fade out in my memory. We all laugh about it now.

The summer course did inspire me a lot - my interest in English was developed during the course. Now, I really want to improve my English, especially writing skills. I hope I can have a chance to do what Ms Tang did - inspiring her junior schoolmates with her great passion.

I look forward to my first year at TKPSS.

FAME!

1D Li Ricielle Charmaine



Fame – the memory will live on forever. It is a great show that resulted from a lot of sweat, time and effort. We hung up our sweetest smiles and enjoyed the whole process of the performance.

We had practised for this famous musical for five long difficult months. At first, not everyone's heart was in the musical. However, all of us had soon realized that this show was not about one person, but about everyone. All the performers shared in one heart and their effort. All of us worked harder to pursue a better performance. Together we had one goal and one desire, to produce an awesome show. We stuck together and trusted one another. We all knew that we must exert ourselves to practice, no matter how tired we might be.

The show was amazing! We had our final rehearsal after lunch. Well, my friends and I were starting to get a bit nervous because it was our first time on stage. Someone told us not to be scared, but to enjoy ourselves. The next second I noticed the lights were off. 'Boom!' Lights on. Suddenly, my nervousness disappeared. There was no time to be nervous. It was time to perform. Everyone focused on their own lines and lots of applause from the audience.

Wow! All of us were crazy about this whole show! Even though we were very exhausted after the show, we really enjoyed it deeply from our hearts. This show ended with 100% success and 200% passion.

I look forward to another excellent show like this next year.



Form One Inter-Class Drama Competition

1E Fung Ka Hei

During the Inter-class Drama Competition, our class performed a scene from the *Chronics of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. I thought the competition was very interesting. I saw a few students from another class put some leaves on their hands to play the role of trees in the drama. They were very creative in designing and dressing trees. So I enjoyed the drama competition very much. Although they could not win the prizes, I believe all audience enjoyed the efforts they put in the drama.

If I had performed the drama for my class, our class would not have won the prizes because I am too shy. Whenever I feel nervous, my voice must become smaller and finally 'inaudible'. What's more, when I am nervous, I will forget all the words that I need to say. It would be my most terrible experience.

I think all performers were very intelligent. They could recite all the scripts and keep themselves relaxed. They were calm and had a clear voice. The pronunciation was easy to understand. Their expression could show their feelings effectively.

So I need to learn from the smart performers, or I cannot improve myself.

Finally, I have to congratulate 1E, the winner of the competition.



A Surprising Birthday

2A Law Sin Yan

The night was dark. Thunder was in the sky. There was a thunderstorm. I needed to finish my homework at school and there was no one, except me in the school. It was so quiet. "... It was very silent, "..."

I tried to concentrate on doing my homework. Suddenly, all the lights went off. That was when it started.

I was frightened, but I decided to see what was going on. When I went straight to the toilet, I heard some footsteps behind me. I turned around to see who was following me. Nobody was there.

When I passed the toilet, I heard some dripping sound. I also saw a red candle rolling on the floor. I was very worried about who was in the school. So I tried to go up to another floor. While I was walking on the stairs, I stumbled over a step and fell onto the ground as I slipped over some red liquid. I looked down. 'Oh no! It's blood!' I screamed.

Abruptly, a man who was wearing a mask appeared in front of me. He grabbed my hand and dragged me along the corridor. My heartbeat went fast and I became terrified. 'Help! Help! Help!' I screamed, screamed and screamed. But no one came to help. I was dragged into a room.

The lights were on. I saw my classmates and a cake.

'Happy birthday to you!' they said. Oh! That was my birthday. They wanted to give me a surprise!

A Mystery

2B Chan Wai Hin, Benedict

Twenty years ago, there was a wooden house on top of Scar Hill. The Smith's family lived in it. Ken Smith, a man with curly hair, lived with her younger sister Jenny Smith for two years. Nobody knew what their jobs were. Their neighbour, who lived in the lowest part of Scar Hill, said that they just saw them drive the car far away from Scar Hill every day. In fact, there were no shops or companies twenty miles far from Scar Hill.

On Christmas Day (twenty years ago), Jenny Smith died at her house. Her right arm and left leg were cut away. Also, her heart was taken away. The police thought her brother was the killer. However, the dead body did not have Ken Smith's fingerprints and there wasn't any hair in the house either. Then, Ken Smith disappeared. It became a mystery for twenty years.

After twenty years, Ken Smith was found dead in the forest. His left arm, right leg and head were taken away.

'Ken Smith was a forty-five-year-old man with grey straight hair. He was 185cm tall and muscular. We know his identity from the wallet near his body,' said Victory Lai, the partner of Detective Law.

'Ken smith? Is he the brother of Jenny Smith? I remember that Jenny Smith's case aroused a great response twenty years ago. These two cases are similar. Some body parts of the victim were taken away,' said Detective Law.

'Sir, we found a digital camera under a tree,' said Victory Lai.

Then they played a video from the digital camera. The video was about how Ken Smith died – he killed himself.

'Unbelievable. Why did he cut his arm?' asked Victory Lai and Detective Law.

Finally, the police had no idea where the body parts of Ken Smith were. It became a mystery, maybe for another twenty years.

Her Secret



2C Siu Chui Ping

I live in a happy family
with my parents and my sister. For
many years, there has been no secrets between
us.

However, my sister, Jenny, seems strange recently. She finishes
her dinner quickly and goes straight to her room afterwards and
misses all the delicious food. Also, she was chatty in the past, but she does
not have much to say lately and she is silent every meal. What is wrong with
her?

Yesterday, as I wanted to know more about her drastic changes, I told her a lie that my
room was 'conquered' by many insects so that I could have an excuse to stay with her. In
fact, I wanted to observe what she did in her room. While she was doing her homework, I
pretended to be sleeping.

Suddenly, I heard some creaking sounds nearby. I woke up and looked around, but
nothing was around me, so I pretended to sleep once again. Jenny was so calm. Was it my
hallucination? Why was she so calm?

After Jenny finished her homework, she whispered, 'Marvelous! I love you and I want you to
stay with me every night!' When I heard it, I felt quite odd! Besides she and I in the room, there
was, supposedly, no one else. Who was she talking to? I could not bear the silence so I asked
her, 'Who is your lover?'

'Sh...! I have no lover,' whispered Jenny. 'It is my new pet, Jane.' There was a tortoise in
front of me. 'I am afraid that mum and dad won't allow me to keep any pets, so I reckon I'd
better keep her in my room secretly. They would think I'm not mature enough to take care
of a pet, but I love animals!' she said. It's the only secret that Jenny had.

'Let's tell them! Jane is not only your pet – it's also mine and our parents!' There
is no secret at home. I want you to be chatty again! You know how worried I've
been recently because of your sudden changes?' I replied. Thinking for a
moment, she nodded her head and promised to tell mum and dad her
secret.

I have a happy family life with my parents, sister, and a
little tortoise. For many years, there has been no
secret between us, and there will not be
any!

If I were...

2E Chan Kwun Wai, Emil

*If I were a striker,
I would practise my shooting skills,
To help score goals
And bring them to the championship.*

*If I were a midfielder,
I would improve our teamwork,
To improve our attacks and defenses
And wake the teammates who are sleeping.*

*If I were a defender,
I would train my mind,
To take standing or sliding tackle quickly,
And keep a clean sheet.*

In fact, I have no idea what this sport is.

When I was a baby,
You held me in your hands,
To feed me gently
And stroked me softly.

When I was a child,
You gripped my hands and
Taught me how to write
How to tie the shoelace
How to button my clothes

When I was a teenager,
I wanted to be independent and I avoided holding your hands.
But you still used your hands to support me.
You packed up my dirty clothes which were left in my room irresponsibly.
You cooked a meal for me which was abandoned by me ruthlessly.

When I was an adult,
I was totally independent and I seldom saw you.
But you waited in your house while I was off at work or with friends.
Your hands were always there, thinking of me.

Now you are old and your hands are frail and full of wrinkles,
I hold your hands softly, just like how you held me when I was a baby in arms.
I stroke your hands gently, just like how you stroke my back when I cried.
I tell you how much I love you and how much I miss you.
I would stay with you forever, my dear Mum.

The Hands

2D Lai Wing Wun



A Happy Ending

3A Tse Man Fong

In 2050, a poor girl went to a landfill to find food to eat and things to sell. Once, she found something very, very weird. That was a hand, a human hand, but it didn't move.

'Maybe it's a corpse or something similar... But I'm sure that it can't be anything good,' thought the girl frighteningly. 'But I have to check it, so that I can save him if he hasn't died.'

Then, the kind and brave girl crept to that hand carefully. When she nearly reached the hand...

'Ahhhhhhh!' the girl screamed with shock.

The hand moved its fingers.

'I have to help him,' the girl determined.

Next, the girl pulled out the body with the strength of nine bulls and two tigers. Although she was extremely exhausted and starving, she still felt glad for saving other's life.

From the day that the girl carried the boy home, she had been busy. Every day, she had to find more food and earn more money than ever. She was two times more tired than before, but she wasn't going to grumble at the boy, because she was really delighted to help people.

One day, as usual, the girl came back to her house. As soon as she opened the door, she was shocked to see the boy sit on the bed.

'Thank you very much. You have sacrificed too much to save my life,' said the boy gratefully.

'...Not at all,' the girl replied with shyness. That was her first time to be thanked in her whole life.

Since then, they lived joyfully together. They worked together, ate together and played together. Although their life was poor and tough, they were satisfied with their simple and sweet life.

One day, an unexpected accident brought their life to a turning point. When the girl was cooking supper for the boy, an accident happened - the knife was too wet and the girl slid it backward. Unfortunately, the knife struck the boy's arm. His arm was cut into two pieces.

Astonished by what she had done, the girl was speechless.

But amazingly, no blood bled out from the cut arm. That was something really, really odd.

'Wires, electrical circuits and... computer chips!' whimpered the girls, scared to death.

'I'm so, so sorry to keep this secret from you,' the boy apologized, 'But I'm really, really afraid that you would leave me if you knew that I'm... I'm a robot.'

'You're a robot?' the girl asked, with her eyebrows raised.

'Yes,' the boy answered calmly.

The girl took off her head and showed the wires in her body.

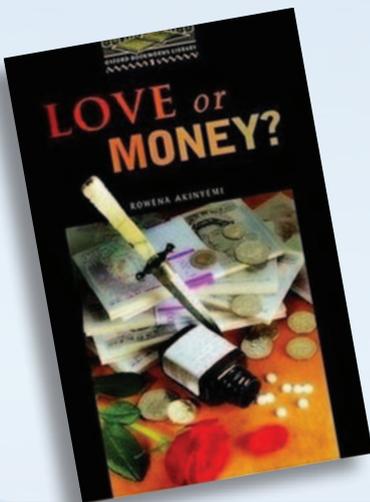
'That's great! You see, I am also a robot!' the girl yelled with laughter.

Finally, like every fairy-tale, they lived happily ever after.



"Love or Money"

3B Poon Wai Ki



"Love or Money" written by Rowena Akinoyemi is really a thought-provoking book. I like the main character Molly Clarkson very much. Although the main character hates her mother a lot, she tries to forgive her mother. What's more, she is extremely sad for her mother's departure.

The story really tells us that we should love our family. No matter how many problems our family has faced, we must love our family. The relationship between different characters in the story is very complex. Sometimes, I think that the personalities of some characters are too similar.

I have also learnt that we should not hurt our family members. We can only live once, so there is no reason to hurt them – the most caring companions in our life!

Nick Vujicic

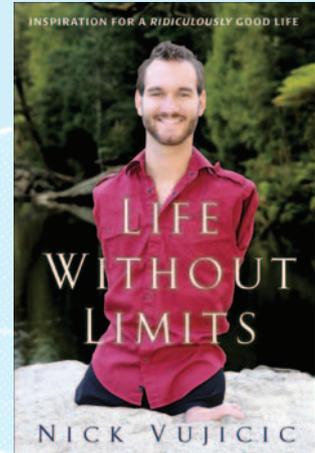
3C Yau Ming Chu

Nick Vujicic is a person who was born without arms and legs. My first impression, he seems poor, however, I think the otherwise.

Although he is physically imperfect, he has a perfect life. Being optimistic, he always overcomes every hardship he has faced in his life. In fact, most people are pessimistic. They always think in a negative way and they are always haunted by bad thoughts. More often than not, whenever they are confronted by a

small problem, they give up without trying their best to combat the problem. Therefore, Nick's inspiring experiences can give people insight into their life.

What else can we learn from Nick? We should have a positive attitude in our life and believe that all problems can be solved. Loving ourselves, treasuring what we have, taking nothing for granted ... the list goes on. Everyone can do what Nick teaches us - 'Love perfects the imperfect you'!



Parents' Day

3D Cheng Ka Wai

"Mum, I am afraid of my results. You know that. I am not good at Mathematics, Science and so on." I weakly admitted. My mind wasn't clear because I was nervous about my report.

"Will it be okay? How about my conduct? Will there be any bad comments from my class teachers?" I shrieked. I couldn't have calmed down before I arrived at my classroom.

When the prefect led my mum and I to the meeting room, I felt like my heart had stopped. My class teachers gave me my report with a beaming face. I immediately took a look at my rank in form.

"Mum, I am ranked 38th in the entire form." I shouted and jumped. It was very surprising that I was in the top 40 even though my marks in science subjects were not great! But then, some thoughts crept into my mind. "Is it good enough?" I asked myself. 'Although I got a passing mark, although I am the top 40, does it mean I should be satisfied with it? Not at all! I should pursue excellence!' I told myself.

When I saw my friend, I could feel that they were frightened. We talked about the report card.

"Don't you know that Chan Siu Man is the top student?" shouted my friend.

"Really? But I remember that last year she never seemed capable of getting such a good result!" I replied with shock. The following response was silent.

Both of us kept silent, knowing that hard work can really change a person.

Today was special. I was never so concerned with my academic results before. I learned from my friend. Siu Man's effort made her achieve something that seemed impossible. It is not impossible. Her marks reflect her hard work and great effort; the same hard work and effort that makes her a great person. I am determined to learn from her.

"Cheng Ka Wai, you need to be stronger!" I told myself, as I clenched my fist in determination.





Is Money the most important thing to consider when we choose a job?

3E Yu Long Ching

Lots of people think money is the most important thing to consider when they choose a job. Their reason is simple: apart from making a living, money even helps us to live a quality life. No one can live without money. But is money the most important factor to consider when choosing a job? I don't think so. There are other important factors to consider when it comes to choosing a job. This essay will focus on three.

It is thought that one of the most important things to consider is personal interest. If we choose a job with high salary but we are not interested in it, we will not work happily. Money cannot buy happiness. Doctors are well paid but they have to suffer stress as patients' lives are in their hands. If a doctor does not love his job and has no passion to save others' lives, no matter how much money he gets, he cannot ease his tension. On the other hand, you can always be joyous when you are doing your favourite job even though you cannot earn a lot of money.

Regular working hours and stable workplace are also important. Normally, we feel tired after working for a whole day. If working hours are not regular, we cannot get rest in time. Since we cannot live a healthy life without proper rest, regular working hours becomes vitally important. Indeed, it is difficult, if not impossible, for us to deal with tasks we come across in our job if we do not have a sound body and mind. On top of it, a stable workplace can help us save time in transport. The time saved can be spent in a more useful way.

Last but not least, job satisfaction should never be neglected. Contribution to the society can bring us satisfaction. Therefore, if we can contribute to the society through our job, we are more satisfied with our job. For example, being a teacher is a dream for many people. Teachers can get respect and recognition from students. What is more, teachers are the ones to educate and nurture our future pillars. In this way, people choose to become teachers because they think this job is meaningful and able to bring them satisfaction.

In conclusion, I believe that money is not the most important thing to consider when we choose a job. It is because personal interest, regular working time and job satisfaction are more important. Do not focus on money so much. Try to consider other things and you will gain more.

“The True Comedian who brings more than just Laughs”

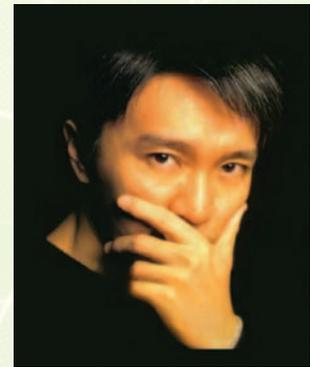
4A Chan Kwan Yui, Mathew

Nothing is better than staying at home and being a couch potato in the afternoons watching the works of Stephen Chow. He has placed great effort into his acting and as a result had a great impact in Hong Kong's entertainment industry.

When Stephen first entered this industry, he acted in kids' shows and learned a lot in bringing about happiness and joy with his humorous appearance. After some years of experience, he finally got a chance to play the main character of a film and became famous. But that was not the end of his career development. He gradually noticed that what funny shows and comedy films lacked was a true message that lies within them. Therefore, in his later movies, he started to put different elements in his works so that the message can be vivid and clear enough to echo in the audiences' minds. For example, he talked about true love and the purpose of life in the twin series “The moonlight paradox of love”. Also, people knew more about the poor and modern society in “Shaolin Soccer” and his latest work, “Chang Jiang Number 7”.

To be frank, there are many poor, sexual, and porn comedies and it is easy to forget the themes of films. What Stephen has accomplished is a big difference to these low-budget comedy films and this can really change our lives in a positive way.

To sum up, Stephen Chow should be nominated for the “Person of the Year” because of his creativity, endeavours, and positive messages in his movies. Compared to those obnoxious plays that play tricks on people, his works are just way beyond that and teach us the right way to look at our society and help the people in need. Stephen Chow, undeniably, deserves this award.



The Modest Leading Actor

(Published in English Street on 21 March 2011.)

4B Tam Siu Chung

Do you often watch television? Do you know who got the award for TVB's best leading actor in 2010? He was not well-known before, since he was just an extra who stood behind leading actors and actresses until he finally got a chance to demonstrate himself in 2009. Who is he? He is Mr. Lai Yiu Cheung, Wayne.

Firstly, we all know how successful he was in 2009 and 2010. People around us all talked about characters which were acted by Wayne Lai such as 'Lau Sing' and 'Chai Kau' in the highly-recommended TV programs. What he said in the programs became unforgettable to many of us like 'How many ten-year lives do we have?' Nearly everyone talked about him; we always saw him on the Internet, in posters, and newspapers. We could see his greatest achievements in 2010, and that is why he was nominated for the 'Person of the Year' in Hong Kong.



Secondly, his attitude should be appreciated. No matter how many awards he received, how many people said he was wonderful, he just told them one thing, 'I am just so lucky that TVB gave me the opportunities.' He keeps working hard for his family too. If he can be the 'Person of the Year,' people all around the world should know more about one of our role models from Hong Kong, as we can all learn from him.

Not many people in the Hong Kong entertainment industry has such a good attitude, are hard working and modest, and he is so special that he can be an icon of Hong Kong.

4C Wong Ching Wun

As a 15-year-old teenager, your dream is probably getting an iPhone or getting more petty cash from your parents. However, I have a dream that is quite different from other 15-year-olds.

My dream is moving to another English-speaking country and I've been striving for it since I was 13 years old. Deep inside my heart, I don't see myself as a Chinese-speaking person. I always want to communicate with people in English. I take great

pains living in a 99%-Chinese-speaking environment, and it's definitely testing my perseverance and resilience.

In order to fulfill my dream, I place more effort in learning English than my classmates (At least, I think I am!). While they are complaining about how boring English is and only reading Chinese books, I am reading tons of English books and magazines. I watch English movies, dramas, and I make friends with foreigners.

I am on my way to the road of success, no doubt there will be sweat and tears but I am ready for it. What about you?

Truth Behind the Fog

4D Liang Man Ting

I have hated foggy weather since I was small. Now my eyes are covered by a layer of fog. But it's still not the worst thing I have come across today - the worst thing is I went through a breathtaking car accident just 30 minutes ago. A car was out of control and collided with the bus I took. Then, without being conscious of what had happened, I noticed that there was blood everywhere. Marvelously, I was saved. I escaped from the bus silently because I didn't want to be in the headlines. Now I was on my way back home. I hope I could take a bath because I was still intimidated.

I took out my key and opened the door. An angry wind was blowing behind. When I closed the door, I found something unusual in the house. A man. No. A ghost was sitting in my rocking chair. I stared at his brown eyes and beautiful brown hair. He was about 50 years old. He looked wan and sallow and kept fixing his gaze on outside. I thought he was more suitable for a wax museum, then why was he here? Tricks? Vengeance? I took a deep breath, trying to calm down. Thanks to the soap opera I have seen, I knew that any character in a film who screamed in front of a ghost always died. So, to ease my tension without risking my life, I poured a cup of tea stealthily. The wind kept blowing, the fog didn't dissipate, and the temperature was decreasing. I sat near the doorway, with cold sweats.

'Creak, Creak', the ghost was swinging on the rocking chair. 'Creak, Creak.' I couldn't endure anymore; I screamed madly and ran to the washroom. The hot water flowed as I turned on the tap and the steam covered the mirror. I wiped the steam on the mirror with my shaking hands. My distorted face was reflected in the mirror. Brown eyes, brown hair - just like a reflection of the ghost I saw outside! In the mirror, I could see the ghost standing up from my father's favourite chair and walking near the window. He disappeared with the fog outside slowly. I found I couldn't stop sobbing. 'Ah...I finally knew why I looked so similar to the ghost. Perhaps...perhaps... he was my father...' I whispered. My father passed away when I was small. He took away the haze for me and blessed me even though he had passed away. Ridiculously I couldn't recognize him. I didn't say anything to him. What I did was scream and shake. But why could I see him? Why didn't he stay here?

I sat on the rocking chair and discovered an incredible truth. My legs were broken already and became smithereens. My white dress was dyed with blood red color. 'Creak, Creak,' I swung on the rocking chair. Truly, I died in that terrible accident, right? So I could see my father, the ghost. But I didn't care anymore. I will sit here and guard my friends until someone inherits my mission. What I want now is enjoy the sunshine, or take a bath.



Catch-22 Situation

4E Kwok Man Ting

The government recently implemented the new plastic bag levy scheme. Customers need to pay 50 cents for each plastic bag they use from various shops. Some people may say that the plastic bag levy is useless in protecting the environment and will even bring out many problems, but I have an opposing view. Indeed, it will come to a win-win situation, so I think that the government should keep the plastic bag levy. There are three reasons to support my stance.

First, the plastic bag levy is an environmentally-friendly measure. It will reduce the use of plastic bags. Since people need to pay for every plastic bag they use, most of them prefer to bring their own environmentally-friendly bags. As a result, the use of plastic bags will drop significantly. A government study shows that the number of plastic bags distributed by retailers had dropped by 90% after the levy was put in place. This implies that the plastic bag levy is successful in reducing the use of plastic bags.

Second, it will benefit the firms, shops, and customers. Some people suggest that the manufacturers for plastic bags may come to an end since the demand of plastic bags has greatly decreased. However, I totally disagree with that. Although the plastic bag levy decreases the demand of plastic bags, it relatively increases the demand of environmentally-friendly bags, which are made of biodegradable materials. Instead, the plastic bags manufacturers can gain more profits by producing environmentally-friendly bags. Also, since the need for plastic bags has been reduced, businesses can reduce the cost of buying plastic bags. As a result, the shops can gain more. They may even lower the price of products, so the customers can benefit. Everyone can benefit from this levy.

More importantly, the plastic bag levy is very educational. Promoting environmental-friendliness is a long-term task, so we should educate people who indiscriminately use plastic bags about the serious environmental problems involved. The levy is a good way in educating the public about protecting the environment. It prompts people to think seriously before using plastic bags. As they understand more about the problems of pollution, they use more environmentally-friendly products which are not meant to harm the environment. It can improve our environment for good.

Last but not least, some people may argue that it is very inconvenient since we should bring along our own environmentally-friendly bags. However, is it reasonable that we just consider our own benefits but ignore the environment? Undeniably, it is true that bringing along our own bags is quite inconvenient, but if everyone does a little, our world will be improved greatly. Imagine: if a plastic bag is saved by each person in Hong Kong, it will turn out that we save seven millions plastic bags! It is us who produce pollution, so we should be the one responsible for cleaning up the pollution.

To conclude, undoubtedly, the plastic bag levy scheme may have some limitations, but it is educational and can help protect our environment. Therefore, I think the government should keep the 'plastic bag levy scheme'. If we are willing to do a little, our earth can be saved. Let's do something before the land pollution becomes more and more serious!



The Pros and Cons of using Internet

5A Tai Ka Lee

Thanks to advancing technology, people nowadays can easily gain access to the Internet through their own gadgets or computers. Internet provides room for them to socialize with friends by sharing words and images so that they strengthen their bonds anywhere. Not only does it help us extend our social circle, but it also widens our horizons. With the Internet, we are connected to the world and can acquire vast amounts of information and knowledge from different parts of the world. It is exhilarating that the Net can give us a glimpse of the world and also increase our exposure to the world.

However, the Net is a double-edged sword – there are always abusers. The worst devil is

addiction. In other words, some people will spend too much time online. So, it is not uncommon for us to know many people nowadays who sacrifice their precious time to go online. As a result, the Internet invades people's life and leads to deep addiction. This is quite a common teenage phenomenon in Hong Kong. This trend has sparked many criticisms about the Internet and drawn the public's attention.

Needless to say, our pressures can be minimized and our lives enriched if we can use the Internet properly. To optimize the benefits of the Internet, it's time for us to rethink the true nature of the Internet.



Bad tour guides ruin our reputation

Published in South China Morning Post on 25 February 2010

5E Tsui Lai Fan, Fanny

The recent bad behaviour of tour guides seems to be becoming worse. There's increasing conflict between tour guides and tourists.

Travel agencies attract mainland travelers by offering cheap prices. But tour guides force tourists to buy things so they can make a commission.

I was not aware of such practices before. I think it is unreasonable. Travellers should have the right to decide whether or not to visit shops and buy things.

I also think tour guides that force clients to visit shops are very selfish. They are only interested in the commissions and making profits.

Fortunately, under new rules, tour operators that force tourists to visit shops will receive demerits or, in more serious cases, even lose their business licences.

The lack of training and poor moral standards of tour guides is another problem that needs to be addressed.

Exploiting travelers must not be tolerated because it greatly harms our tourism industry. I hope Hong Kong's long-cherished reputation as a shopping paradise will not be damaged by unscrupulous tour guides.



the parent-teen conflict

5B Cheung Ka Ho

A few months ago, a 14-year-old secondary school girl, named Chan Wing, who lived in Sheung Shui, committed suicide with her boyfriend because they could not live with their parents' disapproval of their being lovers. They jumped to their death. This is a prime example of parent-teen conflicts.

The issue of 'parent-teen conflict' has been discussed for a long time and many experts have provided a number of methods to deal with it. Many experts blame generation gap for causing the phenomenon. Others blame the education policy – the new generation cannot cope with the conservative methods being practised in the schools.

If both parties can go deeper into the affair, it is not hard for them to find common viewpoints between each other. A dialogue between the parties will allow both sides to know better about each other. As long as they know each other's feelings, most conflicts can be avoided.

However, nowadays because of busy commitments of parents and study schedules, chance for communication is severely limited. Even if they have the chance to talk, teens prefer surfing the Internet instead.

The lack of communication will result in more parent-teen conflicts. The responsibility falls on both parties. My suggestion is to start with a chat. It will take a little time and a little effort. Set a designated time for chatting during dinner and turn off the TV a few minutes before bedtime. It will be difficult at the beginning, but as the relationship is built up, you cannot go without it.

Communication can help you know what the other one requires and what their difficulties are. You can also express your concerns and feelings. You can even complain each other peacefully.

When both sides begin to understand each other's feelings, they will respect each other. Conflicts are abstained as a result.

Many people blame the generation gap saying they are not understood. However, how can one understand the other party if no one is communicating? The lack of communication is causing generation gap.

Parents must understand their children and help them overcome the difficulties they face every day. Teens begin to understand that the earth does not revolve around them. They begin to learn to be sympathetic, empathetic and considerate towards the others, especially their parents. As these groups communicate more and learn more about each other, when a crisis comes they can deal with it and solve the problem together; and the tragedy of Chan Wing could have been avoided.



Privacy and Freedom of speech

5C Lam Cheuk Hin

These days, blogs and social networking sites, like Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, etc, have become an integral part of teenagers' life. They always share their views and upload their photos for public access. However, there are dangers in giving too many personal details. I would also like to express my views on how to strike a balance between protecting privacy and the freedom of speech.

First of all, I would like to discuss what should be made public and what should remain private. In my opinion, our basic information can be made public, our first name, sex, some hobbies, etc. However, our private personal details should remain private. Our personal details include: our address, credit card numbers, ID card numbers, passwords, contact numbers, working places, etc. Also, we should be careful when we are sharing others' information with our friends. We need to respect other people's privacy.

In order to strike a balance between protecting our own and other people's privacy and the freedom of speech, we need to be smart and use the Internet safely. We should do this kind of work:

Firstly, we need to protect our personal details. Before we share our personal details, we should ask ourselves, 'Is it really necessary to disclose this information? If no, of course we should not share this information. If yes, we need to read the information once again and think about the problem that it may lead to. We have to clearly remember that 'Everyone is watching and everyone is being watched on the Internet.' Therefore we should be very careful when we share our information.

Secondly, if we really want to share others' information with friends, what should we do? We should get their consent before we share. We have to respect other people's privacy. They may not like to disclose their own personal details.

Moreover, I think we should mind our words and not infringe on others' privacy. We should not give anyone hard feelings. We should never give negative comments on other people. They may be harmful. Also, if we mind our words on the Internet, we can avoid putting ourselves into the jeopardy of being misunderstood.

'Then, how about our freedom of speech? We will lose our freedom if we choose to follow these,' someone may ask. In my opinion, I do not undermine the importance of our freedom of speech but we should protect people's privacy. Privacy is more important to consider than just your own demand for freedom of speech.

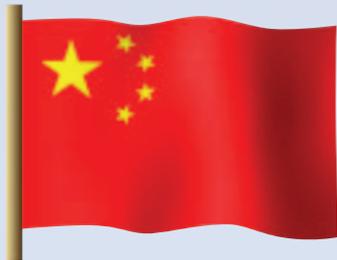
Hence, it is important to protect people's privacy. We should use the Internet safely. It is always better safe than sorry. Be smart when using the Internet and maintain a balance between privacy and freedom of speech.

Acknowledge Human Rights

Acknowledge Liu Xiaobo

(Published in English Street
on 16 December 2010.)

5D Leung Yan Chi, Nathalie



Liu Xiaobo is the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner. He was awarded the Peace Prize “for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China”. It should be happy news for the Chinese people. However, the Chinese Government made an official complaint against the granting of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo.

China is sensitive to the term ‘human rights’. The Chinese government thinks that the problems of human rights are caused by an undeveloped economy. Some people hold the view that China does not accept criticism on human rights and wants to maintain the one-party state.

In my opinion, the situation of human rights in China is really unacceptable and unbelievable. In China, making speeches about the June Fourth Incident is dangerous. More than that, this topic is forbidden by the government and generally cannot be found in mainland Chinese media or websites. The media is warned not to mention the event. Web posts and other individual actions on-line are rigorously removed by censors or moderators. According to the Human Rights Report released by the US Department of State in 2010, the situation of human rights in China is getting worse. The flowing of internet information is limited. The government also controls and limits the sites on the internet. Self-censorship is also encouraged. This shows that the Chinese government puts less attention on human rights issues and more economic issues.

China is a traditional country but I think it’s time to make some changes. You may say, “China had been giving out the Reforms and Open-door policy since 1978. Isn’t that enough?” I can tell you this is not enough.

Reviewing the past 30 years of reform, the economy has improved and most of the people can enjoy better life. However, these reforms were conducted under the Communist Party, the only ruling party in China, until now. The problem is that China runs under an one-party state and believes in communism which does not allow the existence of any opposing parties. This leads to a problem that the government can make any decision on their own without the permission and opinion from the people.

China is still under this situation and this catches a lot of attention around the world. The US always urges China to pay more attention on human rights issue. Many countries agree that China’s economy is greatly improved but not people’s lives or freedom.

To conclude, China still has a room for improvement, especially on human rights issues but taking the first step is always the hardest. We shall all hope that China can make it one day.



BIG BUSINESS

(2011 UE Writing Question 2)

IS NOT ONLY ABOUT MAKING MONEY

6A Li Wai Shan

It is commonly believed that the aim of starting a business is to make profit. The concept makes perfect sense as no one wants their company to close down. However, is big business only about making money? It is proven to be wrong by many typical examples in Hong Kong.

Many companies are struggling to establish good reputation in order to stabilize their income. However, if companies only aim at making money, people will regard the businessmen as profiteers. As a result, the companies' reputation will be surely ruined. Regarding the hostility of Hongkongers towards the MTR Company, it is known that the MTR Company earns considerable income every year, but people are really disappointed as the company decides to raise the price of MTR fare. Obviously, the company has no urgency to do so, the reason behind is that the company has an unlimited desire to make more money. By doing so, admittedly, it will earn much money, but it would not gain the people's respect. In the long run, the company would not be able to enjoy a fine reputation.

Also, if a company puts more emphasis on making money, it is unfavorable for its development. People will be dissatisfied with the company's work and will hinder its development. The anti-tycoon feeling among Hong Kong people will be the best to illustrate my point. Nowadays, there is the so-called 'property hegemony.' People are hostile towards the richest man in Hong Kong, Li Ka Shing. His company, Cheung Kong Limited, is dominating the property market. It is commonly deemed that the high price of flats owes much to his company. Peoples' drastic resistance would make his company hard to further develop. Making profit is not wrong, but a successful business is not only about making money. Otherwise, the expansion of the company may be restrained.



Finally, a company may suffer if it is solely striving to make money. Running a big company, the ethic of businessmen is extremely important. When a company cares much about making money, it means it would achieve this target by all means whatever it is ethical or not. Nowadays, Hong Kong people are concerned about the safety of medicine. Some pharmaceutical companies would add substances harmful to consumers' health to the pills. It is unscrupulous as the company totally ignores peoples' interests. When problems emerge, the company definitely has to bear the consequences. Apart from medical safety, Hong Kong people also have no confidence in the integrity of the media. Some magazine companies cater to the taste of readers as to boost their sales. They see nothing wrong in benefiting by distorting or exaggerating the facts. So we can see that many artists will sue the company for untrue reports or even libel. All these examples show that some businessmen are not socially aware. If they are unethical, they will be at stake or even suffer some losses one day. Therefore, big business is not only about making money.

To conclude, a successful business should not put making profit the first priority. The businessmen ought to realize their social responsibility and shatter the common stereotype of 'wicked businessmen.'

Health concerns wins over rights in junk food battle!

(2006 UE Writing Question 2)

6S Chong Chin Kwan

“Ring, ring, ring” Every recess and lunch time, groups of students uncontrollably rush into the tuck shop and buy their favourite “junk food” such as fish balls and fizzy drinks. Can you imagine what will happen to students if they are told that they cannot buy the junk food from the tuck shop anymore? I believe they would probably stage a protest in the general office! Our principal, however, has told the tuck shop to stop selling the food in response to the government’s campaign to promote healthy eating. The principal and representatives of parents, teachers and students, therefore have diverging viewpoints on this.

To begin with, the principal holds the belief that junk food should not be sold in school anymore for the sake of students’ health. Firstly, if students eat too many snacks during recess, they will lose their appetite easily and don’t want to have lunch at lunchtime. This would lead to other serious problems such as food-wasting since they cannot finish their lunch and hence burdening the landfill problem in Hong Kong. Secondly, students’ health is harmed if they eat too much junk food. Everybody knows that junk food is full of fats, sugars, salts, cholesterol and substances which are detrimental to a person’s health. Diseases like teenage obesity, diabetes and heart diseases are highly associated with the consumption of junk food. Moreover, the school must act as a role model and send a message to encourage students to adopt a healthy diet.



As for parents, they do have a diversity of opinions. For those who approve of banning junk food, they have similar viewpoints with the principal. But those who disagree think that their children should be able to eat whatever they like. Also, they are concerned about the financial burdens of some poor families whose children just have little money to have their lunch every day. It is affordable for them to buy cheap junk food only. Those parents worry that if junk food is banned, poor students may have nothing to eat in school.

However, students do not agree with the parents’ viewpoint. The chairman of Student Union, Tom Chan, voiced out that students have their own autonomy and personal rights to choose whatever they eat. Everyone in Hong Kong should enjoy this kind of privilege no matter who they are, how old they are or where they are from. Therefore, he thinks the ban violates the principle of freedom of self-determination. Besides, students feel very confused about the problem of inconsistency of the ban. They have no idea why teachers can still buy the so-called “junk food” freely while students cannot. It is so ridiculous that teachers really act as a “good role model” to students. What’s more, Tom was skeptical about the feasibility of this policy. Even though students are not allowed to buy junk food at school, they can still buy them outside school. So it is doubted if the ban could really meet the expectation and purpose of the original rationale of this policy. Also, Tom claimed that students are mature and rational enough to weigh independently the pros and cons of every decision they make. So they have ability to choose which food is healthy.

Last but not least, teachers have totally different opinions. The supervisor, Mr. Wong, complained that students are too environmentally-insensitive as they waste too many plastic bags, utensils and bottles which are harmful to the environment. Also, some students dirty the cafeteria by littering and leaving food debris on the table, which is utterly unhygienic! It is easy to see why there is so much rubbish scattered everywhere in the cafeteria. It is also crystal-clear that students are not disciplined enough when it comes to environmental issues and hygiene issues. Therefore, it is reasonable to infer that he supports the ban because of hygiene considerations.

After listening to diverging viewpoints on this controversial policy, I just have one question: Is the students’ right more important than their health? Is it worth it to lose your health just for the sake of fighting for your rights? If you lose your health, you probably could not do anything whatever you want. Cherish your health, or lose your health and everything you have.

MMLC or NET

(2004 UE Writing Question 1)

7A Wendy Sher

Dear Principal,

I am writing on behalf of my schoolmates concerning the best way of spending the donation of HK\$1,000,000. One week ago, I collected different opinions from schoolmates. In the following, I am going to summarize their views as well as making a recommendation of the best way of spending the donation.

First of all, there are mainly three arguments supporting building one more MMLC. The first one is that more facilities can be available for study. Currently, we have only one MMLC in our school and it is apparently insufficient to deal with the demand. Many students enter the current MMLC and are unable to use a computer because all the computers are occupied. There is no doubt that if one more MMLC is built, more students would benefit from it as they could have a higher chance to get a seat during peak hours.

Moreover, the MMLC encourages students to learn independently. In the MMLC, students use different programs which have been installed in the computer to learn different knowledge. The most commonly used programs are English learning and Music studying. The added MMLC would provide more opportunities for more students to benefit from self-learning.

Compared to employing another NET, it is much more flexible for students to choose when they would like to learn. In fact, after an MMLC is built, students can make use of it whenever they want. However, even if our school employs one more NET, students will have to wait until the NET is available if they wish to speak to the NET.

Building another MMLC has its own advantages but there exists some problems behind it.

The first one is the lack of interaction. Students, who learn by using computers, do not receive any feedback. Sometimes they have even no idea that they are making mistakes. This would not always be a good way to learn.

Besides, without proper supervision, students may not be conscientious during self-learning. Put another way, students may attend the class physically, but not consciously. As a result, efficiency for the learning program would drop.

As for employing one more NET, it brings along advantages as well.

Firstly, it could share the workload of the one and only one existing NET and also the English teachers. English is an essential subject that every student must learn. So, it has long been well-known that English teachers bear the heaviest workload in school. If one more NET is employed, it would alleviate their burden and thus teachers can provide more attention to their students' study process. The teachers will also have ample time to prepare good lessons.

Moreover, it encourages students to learn English. Most of the time, teachers are busy coping with their work and have little time to talk to students in English so as to motivate them. Employing one more NET could therefore offer students more opportunities to speak in English and enhance their English skills.

Yet, on the other hand, it may not be entirely effective to improve students' English ability. The first reason is that even if one more NET is employed, it would still be insufficient to tackle the demand from students to learn English. After all, students from F.1 – F.7 have great demand for NET as they want to practise their spoken English. They need a lot of practice so that they could get a better grade but one more NET may not be enough to help them achieve the goal.

The second reason is that the quality of the new NET is not guaranteed. For example, the new NET may not know the education criterion in HK so well and thus, cannot accurately provide useful comments to students.

Viewing the pros and cons from each opinion, on behalf of the schoolmates, I recommend employing one more NET.

Firstly, with another NET, a better conducive atmosphere for students to speak English is encouraged. It is important for students to learn good English. Also, as our school can show determination to help students in their English proficiency, the reputation of our school can be boosted if one more NET is employed.

Secondly, to learn English effectively, interaction is particularly vital. Students could improve their English ability by getting response from teachers and this is something that another more MMLC cannot do.

All in all, there is a more critical need for students to enhance their English ability. I hope the views and recommendation that I summarized on behalf of the schoolmates are useful for school in determining the use of the donation.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

Chris Wong
(Chairperson of the Student Association)

28 years in prison – a godsend or a plague?

7S So Lai Shan

Dear schoolmates, how old are you? Fifteen? Seventeen? How many years have you spent in school? Caution: what I am asking is how much time you have spent in one and only one particular place. If you think it is boring to stay in one particular place for years, you must think it is unbearable to spend 28 years in prison. However, after staying in prison for 28 years, Dragon, our honourable guest speaker, found his true self. He found a way to redeem himself from a corrupt, self-destructive life.

Dragon was a triad member earning a lot of money every day. At that time, he earned money quickly and spent it promptly. Yet, after his soul-searching in the jail for so many years, he now describes gangs as ‘desperate and hopeless’ people.

One day, he killed a man. That was the turning point in his whole life.

Dragon was found guilty of murder and was sentenced with the death penalty. Dragon’s mind was blank as he was facing death. Fortunately, death penalty was abolished just before the penalty carried out. He was supposed to live in a single cell in jail for life but it was his mother that motivated him to face up to the difficulties. “When will you be released, son?”

These six unassuming words from his mother made him cry hysterically and became determined to turn over a new leaf in his life. He was not going to give up but started learning new things such as languages by reading newspapers and books borrowed from the library every day. As time passed, he could write to his mother and help others to fill out amnesty application forms. It was tough to learn writing and reading Chinese words as well as English. What actually turned him from an illiterate into a literate was his very strong will and perseverance. After such impressive changes and repentance, he was eventually shown clemency for his crimes and was able to accompany his mother now.



Not only did Dragon learn determination in jail, but he also developed an altruistic attitude. ‘My interest is helping people!’ he affirmed. Giving always brings more joys than receiving, as Dragon said, when he helped other prisoners to write letters to their family. He felt very happy for them even it did not benefit him at all. What’s more, he cherishes what he has now. He feels rich as he is grateful for having health, hopes, family... the important things.

Schoolmates, do you treasure your friends, family and everything you are having now? Can you find any insights from Dragon’s story so far?

An outstanding student leader – Andy, who was also on stage, had the same feeling as Dragon on the issue of helping others. He squeezed as much time for voluntary work, while coping with academic pressures. Being a volunteer trains his ability to organize and manage time properly. On one hand, he cheers people up; on the other hand he acquires experience on organizing activities and time management. ‘You take by what you give!’ he remarked. No wonder he got very high marks in public exam. After his sharing, there is hardly any reason for us not to do voluntary work.

The school supervisor, Mr. Tin, mentioned that he appreciated Dragon very much. Since leaving prison, Dragon was never ashamed of himself but always tried his best to redeem the wrong things that he did. In other words, he is courageous enough to get through the obstacles and does not allow the past to plague him. This is exactly what Mr. Tin wants us to learn from Dragon.

All in all, it was a very meaningful sharing session held by Dragon, Andy and Mr. Tin. The inspiration of amazing session is far beyond description. I can see how perseverance changed one’s faith and how helping others can also help oneself.

Dear schoolmates, are you influenced or moved by Dragon’s story? Make your time meaningful and no matter what you do, just face up to any hardship you face in life.

WELCOME TO 'TINspiration'

TIN + inspiration = TINspiration

This is an anthology of the students' writing of Tin Ka Ping Secondary School in the 2010-2011 school year.

This anthology is an affirmation of the students' inspiration and motivation in the written arts. These skills that were nurtured from the warmth of the students' second home: our school. A wide variety of ideas and views are shared among us.

Hope you all enjoy it!

Ms Lau Wai Man
Ms Lam Sau Ping

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