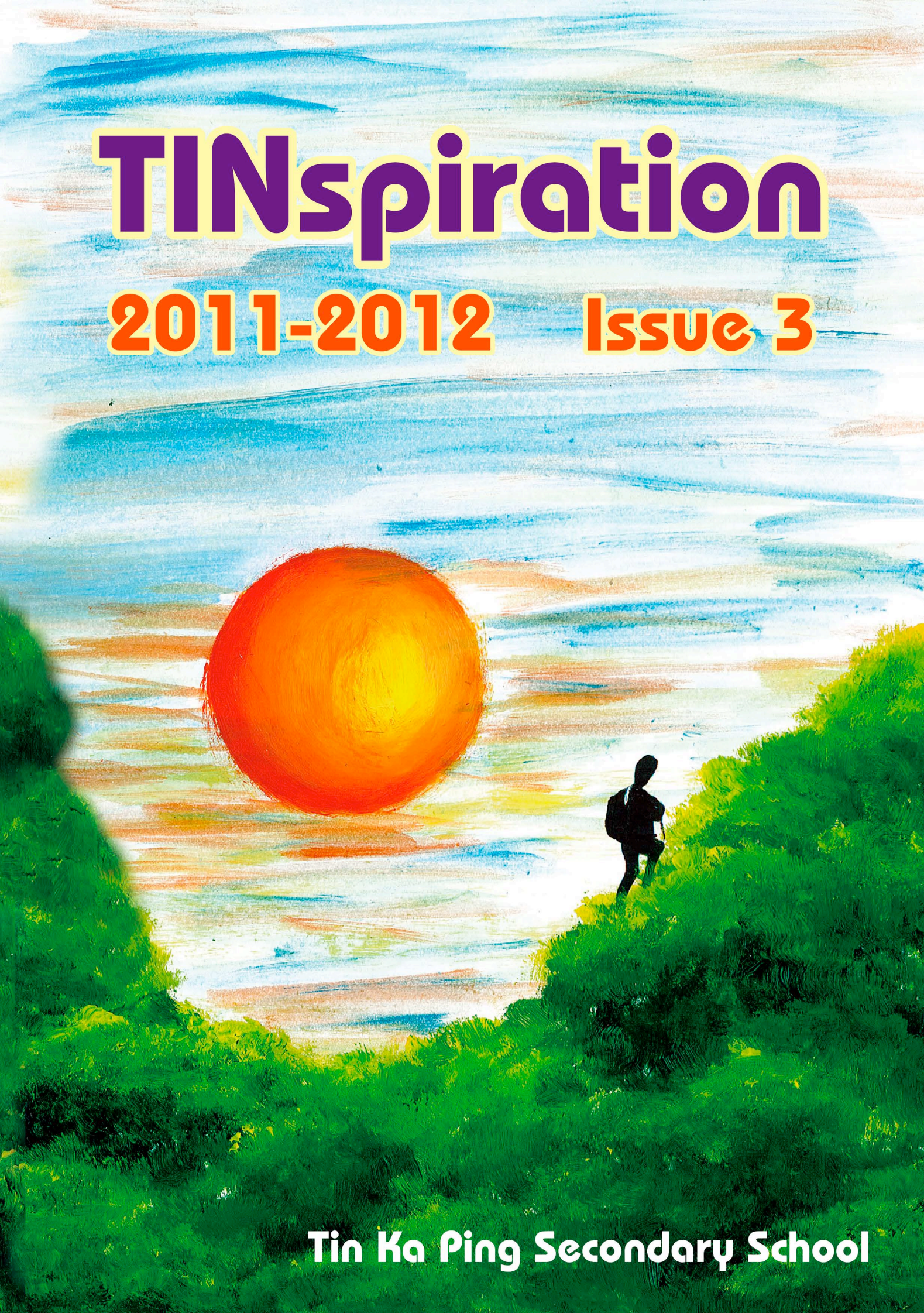


# **TINspiration**

**2011-2012**

**Issue 3**



**Tin Ka Ping Secondary School**



# Message from the Principal

-- Explore to aspire and inspire Dr Yuen Pong Yiu

This year, our students are encouraged not only to pursue academic excellence but also to explore their potential by widening their horizons to reach greater heights. I am very honoured to share their accomplishments with you.

After pouring their blood, sweat and tears, the basketball team won the championship in Boys Grade A event with the 200-student cheering team's applause. If I had a vote of loving hearts in TKPSS, it would go to them undoubtedly.



Chan Ho Sing, Koo Chak Yin and To Chun Ming won the Robocup Junior Open Competition in the territory and then continued to represent Hong Kong to compete in the largest 'robot-Olympics' held in Abu Dhabi. It is great honour and privilege to take part in such an international competition.

Lai Wing Wun received recognition as the Champion of the Most Outstanding Student in North District at the junior level. Wing Wun continues to work towards the challenges and is looking forward to competing in more inter-school competitions.

Yip Kai Man was recognized as one of the Top Ten Outstanding Student Leaders organized by the Hok Yau Club. The six-month competition demanded a tight schedule and challenging tasks.

As one of the newly selected UNICEF's Young Envoys, Yeung Tsz Ching will start her mission by being a child rights advocate. She is going to visit Vietnam to further experience the situation of deprived children during the summer holidays.

All the above successful stories from our students clearly show five key attributes to success: dare to know yourself; dare to dream and achieve your goal; dare to step away from your comfort zone with courage; dare to fight with perseverance and at times dare to let go. It requires courage and bravery for all the above students to dare to try and challenge themselves. Our basketball team is an obvious example. Even though the basketball team was stuck in second place when success eluded them for several years, they were persistent and fought with perseverance. They were never afraid of facing failure. And they never confined themselves in only the first runner-up. Finally, their perseverance bore fruits. They reaped the harvest of their effort and they were crowned the champion. The crucial element to success, undoubtedly, is to face failure, to learn from mistakes, to let it go and then to become resilient to try again. No one can escape failure, which is an inevitable and indispensable process in our life. Only by facing failure and letting it go can we truly achieve success.

In the biography of Steve Jobs, the Apple CEO gave an account of how he continued to strive for success after being forced out of Apple in 1985. "I'm the only person I know that's lost a quarter of a billion dollars in one year ... It's very character-building." Steve continued his next lines to teach us how to locate our dream and actualize it into a reality. "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.



Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary." When you face difficulties, remember the legacy Steve Jobs left for us.

I am delighted to present the third issue of *TINspiration*. We cordially invite comments from the education community to enhance the writing skills of our students. Thank you.



# What you didn't know

**Billy Ko (NET)**

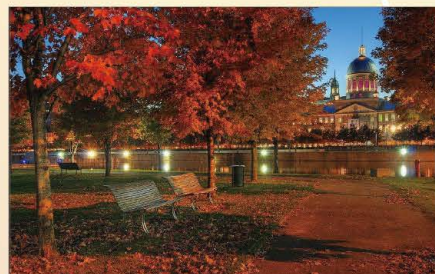


The majority of you should know me, but if you don't, I am Mr. Ko. And you may also know that this is my second year at TKPSS. Before that I was in Canada.

I moved to Canada when I was really young. I attended kindergarten there, primary school, secondary school, and university; hence I was in Canada for about 20 years. About 2 years ago, I made a very important decision that would change my life forever. My decision was to move back to Hong Kong. In these 2 short years, I have experienced and seen many new things. Many interesting things. Things that would seem normal to all of you, are in fact very new and very fresh to me.

Since being back, some of my friends, some of the teachers here, and some of you have asked me, "Why did you come back to HK? And what is the difference between HK and Canada? Or how do you like HK?" So in today's sharing, I want to share my experiences, answer some of your questions, and perhaps inspire you to explore and to try new things.

To me Canada isn't really that special place of a place. It isn't special, because I have been there almost all of my life. Everything that I did or witnessed was normal to me. But after reflecting back on it, I found Canada to be a very relaxing place. Just imagine this. The summers are much milder like Bong mentioned previously. It is not as humid in Canada, so even in the heat of the summer, it doesn't get sticky and wet. Summers are hot, but it is crisp. There is green grass and trees everywhere you go, so it is a very natural scene. Come October, in Autumn, and it is one of the most beautiful scenes your eyes will ever witness. All the leaves on the trees start turning a reddish orange color. And if you drive far enough, about 20 minutes on the outskirts of major cities, all you will see is orange and red trees as far as the eye can see. And the winters are amazing as well. Nothing beats the feeling of waking up in the morning, looking out the window, and seeing the color white EVERYWHERE. Once you step outside your door, you take a deep breathe, and you can feel the cold, but CRISP and FRESH air fills your lungs. Take the astonishing scenery, the amazing weather, and the slower pace of life, and what you get is one of the best places to live in the world. This is what you normally hear when people talk about Canada. Whether it is someone who visited Canada or something you see on TV.



But, behind all these niceties, a Canadian or someone who has lived there long enough can tell you there is a flip side to that coin that normally goes untold. Like during the summer, yes, there is green grass everywhere, but did you know there is also something else that plagues these empty green fields? They are dandelions. They start off as harmless little yellow flowers. But after a few days, their yellow pedals start to turn into little white seeds. And once there is a little breeze, these little seeds from literally thousands of dandelions get blown across what was once was green grass. And they keep multiplying and multiplying, until a field turns from a picture perfect moment grass to something completely white, grey, and dull. I assure you, it isn't the prettiest sight and it actually causes many allergy problems for people.





In Autumn, yes, the sight of orange and red trees are amazing. But do you know what happens as winter approaches? All the beautiful leaves start to fall to the ground. The trees are stripped with nothing but boring and sharp branches and a tree trunk. And if these leaves on the ground aren't cleared before snow falls, then the leaves will rot and decompose in the spring time, making what was once green fields into muddy brownish fields. And in the winter, yes, the snow is white and flaky at first at first. But do you know what happens after enough people have walked

on it or enough cars have travelled on it? The snow gets dirty and it turns into this black slosh, which is snow, but it is melted to the point where it is about to turn into water again, mixed with dirt, salt, making it black. It surely isn't something you see in postcards. Also, the hassle of clearing the snow from walkways and your driveway can be tiresome and time-consuming.

If you have not been to other places, then this is something you wouldn't know.

BUT, all in all, Canada is still one of the best places to live in. But after being there for so long, I wanted to change the scenery a bit. Everything seemed too routine and too normal for my liking. I wanted to explore. I wanted to experience new things, I wanted more in my life. SO 2 years ago, I made a decision to come back to HK. I knew things would be different, but my gosh, things are very different.



HK is a very exciting place. I remember my first new years here. It was December 31, 2011, 11:59PM. 200,000 people gathered together in one place, Victoria Harbour, all waiting for the countdown to begin and the fireworks to start. That was an amazing experience, seeing and hearing all those people counting down in unison and the overall atmosphere it created left me speechless, because it was something I never experienced in Canada. IN ADDITION, I have NEVER spent so much money on shopping and eating. They are correct, when

they called HK a shopping paradise. Most of you may think that Tung Choi street in MK is too cramped and boring, but I can tell you, to this day, I still enjoy strolling down that packed street very much, taking in the culture and seeing the things that are sold there.

But ALL this wouldn't have been possible if I didn't decide to come to HK. If I had decided to stay in Canada, I think I would still be working at my old job. I think I would still be picking leaves off of the ground and breaking my back clearing the snow from my driveway. It was my urge to explore that has led me here today. Now, I live in a city that is exciting and never sleeps. I am in the middle of a shopping paradise. And MOST IMPORTANTLY, I am working in a job that I love very very much. I have found what I wanted in life and I am truly satisfied with what I have achieved. So I urge all of you, when you have an opportunity, to try out new things. To not think about just the bad things, but the possibilities. A great way to start is by joining the study tours at this school. They are a great way to open up eyes to what is around you and possibly open up opportunities that you never thought would otherwise be possible.

That concludes my sharing. Thank you all for your attention.



# A letter about a past Drama Performance

1A Ma Tsz Ching

Dear Jeff,

How are you? Yesterday, my group mate and I performed the Drama “New Narnia.” I was Lucy and my group mates were Peter, Susan, Fox and Mr. Beaver. I think it was a good experience for me and my group mates.

I thought our action was okay! In Narnia, we were chased by the White Witch. We felt tired and sat under the tree, and acted like we drank some tea or read a book. I thought our setting was quite good. We started the drama in the forest, so it matched the background of Narnia.

Unfortunately, our script was too short. We couldn't show the conflict between the characters. We didn't show who the bad guy was, and who was being chased and who caught us. And I thought our voice was too soft. The audience could not hear us clearly. Sometimes, we showed our back to others and did the action off stage. And when we had the dialogues, we always waited for a long time. I think our performance was not very good.

I thought we need to have a longer script to show the conflict and make the drama more clear. When we present the drama, we should say the words louder to let the audience hear what we say and act. We need to stand at the centre of the stage and show our faces to the audience.

I think we still have a lot of things that we need to improve. Last time, when I read your letter, you said that you needed to perform a drama at your school next Friday. Good luck! If you have any problems, I can try to give some advice to you. I hope it will be helpful. And you can also give me more suggestions for us to improve. I wish your drama goes well!

Best wishes,  
Chris Wong



## A Diary

1B Lam Wai Yan, Vivian

5<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 (Saturday)

Sunny

Today was sunny and hot. I went to Coffee Bay in Tuen Mun. My parents, my younger brother, my grandparents, my aunts and I had a barbecue in Coffee Bay.

We arrived there at about 11:00 a.m. There were so many people. We had to wait for about half an hour for the barbecue stove. It was a sunny day. It was very hot. I sweated a lot while we were waiting, so I drank lots of water. My brother and I felt bored while we were waiting. Therefore, my parents told us to play for a while. We took the ball out and played happily. When we finished the game, mother told us to come back because we had a barbecue stove! First, my brother and I took the food out. We brought a lot of food, like sausages, chicken wings, corn, pork, beef and mushrooms etc. We also brought drinks, like lemon tea. The chicken wings were so fragrant and juicy. The corn was so sweet and tasty. Wow! I thought all the food was yummy and delicious.

When I finished lunch, I took some photos of the mountains, birds, the bay and yachts. They were so beautiful. And I heard some sounds, such as people playing, yelling, baby crying. I thought they were too noisy! Then I walked along the beach, far away from the noisy people. I heard some beautiful sounds, such as the sound from the wind, sea waves and birds singing! It was so comfortable! Finally, my mother called me back to play hide-and-seek. It was an enjoyable game because we had a lot of fun.

I thought today was a great day of my life. It was because today I took a lot of beautiful pictures of Coffee Bay. We had a yummy and good barbecue lunch. We played lots of exciting games as well. I wish tomorrow will be even better.





# Form 1 School Life

1C Chan Hei Ching

I remember that in primary school, I had a lot of time to participate in many extra-curricular activities. Although our school gave us many chances, we did not have enough time to join all of them. In the beginning, we didn't have enough time to take a rest. We were busy doing revision for the tests and doing homework. A few weeks later, we started to adapt to it.

In September, all form 1 students joined a camp that was very hard.

We were all very tired because we had to do a lot of training. However, it improved our teamwork, ability to cooperate and leadership skills. I got ill and could not join them. The most memorable thing for me was I got a great position as "Monitress". At first, it was quite hard for me because I had many responsibilities. However, I insisted to do my best. In the end, I succeeded in gaining the teachers' trust. After that, I learnt that we should be firm and persistent. If not, your dream will never be realized.

Miss Liu's birthday is in October. She is our 1C class teacher, so our 1C students wanted to give her a big surprise. That day, I made a birthday cake for her, on top of it were some flowers made of mangoes. Other students prepared a sweet birthday song and a funny show.

Finally, I expect that in the coming five years, we will have an amazing school life, plentiful experiences and great results. In the future, I hope we can achieve our dream and contribute to the community.



## Lost in the park

1D Lam Hau Yan

Hello! I am a dog and I live with my master, Betty.

One day, my master took me to a park which was far away from our home. We walked for thirty minutes, my master needed to buy some water to drink so she asked me to stay outside the shop.

Suddenly I saw my best friend, Kitty. I ran toward her quickly. She took me to a wonderful park and we played together happily. Thirty minutes later, Kitty's master asked her to come back home. At the same time I thought, "Where is my master?" I felt worried and afraid. I didn't know what I should do. I walked around to find my master. After an hour, it was nearly dark and I started to run. I felt helpless. I slept on the street that night.

While I was sleeping, I heard some strange sounds. I opened my eyes and saw a suspicious man wearing a black T-shirt and a pair of dark blue jeans. He threw a hammer at me. I was frightened and ran away quickly. At the same time, a woman saw us and called the police.



The police came quickly and they arrested the man. I was taken to the police station and they saw my neck had a tag with my master's phone number. They helped me to phone my master. At last, I saw my master again and she was worried about me!

After this event, I will not leave my master again. Even though I helped the policeman to arrest a robber, I am afraid of getting lost.



A Letter to my friend-

# How to keep a hamster at home

2A Yuen Lok Yin, Jasmine

Dear Peter,

How are you? Last time when I saw you, you told me that you wanted to have a hamster for a pet, didn't you? Haha! I think you have asked the right person. Let me tell you how to keep a hamster.



There is something really important. First, they can't eat salty or spicy things, such as noodles and chips. They usually have pet food for meals. But sometimes you can give them some rice (needs to be cooked) or fresh apples or fruit (don't give them soft things like oranges, because they don't like to eat those!). That's all for food. Then let's talk about what they drink. Remember, don't give them any soft drinks! They can die because of it. However, you can give them some fresh juice once a week. Otherwise they will be too fat if they drink too much. The best drink for them is water, or boiled water to be exact. Drinking hot or cold water will change their hair colour. At last, remember to help them take a bath. Use sand but not water! You can buy it from a pet shop. They will clean themselves in the sand by themselves. You don't need to worry about it other than provide a tall, middle-sized container for holding the sand.

That's all about taking care of a hamster. There are different kinds of hamsters with different sizes. Make sure you choose the one you like most and also the size of the cage. It is because some hamsters can get really big! Please send an email with their photos to me after you buy one.



Regards,  
Jasmine

## Smartphones, harm or good?

2E Lam Shing Yuen

I hold the belief that the invention of smart phones actually does more harm than good.

Firstly, nowadays, smartphones are popular among students. You can see them playing with smartphones on buses, on MTR, in shopping malls and at restaurants. Although the smartphones are very attractive, it may affect our learning. Many students will think of the games of the phone every day and are not interested in learning. They may think that playing with smartphones is more important than learning. It will affect them greatly and they will not care about their academic performance.



Secondly, playing with smartphones will also worsen the relationship between students and their families. As our parents love us so much, they do not want us to waste time on playing with smart phones. Besides this, many young people like to use the smartphones so much that even when they are having dinner, they do not put it down. This, of course, irritate their parents as dinner is considered to be family time. As a result, conflicts may arise.

Thirdly, playing with smartphones may also causes many health problems. For example, after focusing on the screens for a long time, our eyes may be tired. Worse still it will affect our eyesight and cause eye problems. This is even worse as many young people cling to their smartphones even when they are traveling on MTR and buses, some are even unwilling to stop playing the games on smartphones when they are walking..

In conclusion, I think that having smartphones actually does more harm than good for students because it affects our learning, relationship with families and health. Students should use them wisely. They should be the 'master' of smartphones rather than the 'slaves' of them.





Today was the 4<sup>th</sup> October and as the weather was sunny, I went hiking. Half way through the hike, I found a little puppy in a catchwater. I thought it was frightened because I could see that it was trying to get out from the catchwater. I tried using some food to make the little puppy come near me. At last, I called the police and they helped save it. The government officials got into the catchwater carefully and carried the little puppy out. They helped the puppy relax and sleep. Then they took the puppy quickly to the nearest hospital. In the end, I didn't know what they did to the little puppy, but I've learnt one thing – to not just be helpful to people, but to be helpful to animals too.



## Mystery Story



2C Chiu Tung Po



It was a dark, damp night, and the moon was as glittery as a cleaned mirror. It was as lumpy as a devil's face too! It was raining and Ben was focusing on a book about a vampire in a castle. He came to this castle an hour ago and found this book on a sofa. Ben was attracted by this vampire book and soon he felt dizzy. It didn't take long before he drifted into a deep sleep and started to dream.

Ben dreamt about a beautiful girl passing through a forest. She was dressed in an orange frock and it made her as shiny as a diamond. She also transpired a unique fragrance around her. The only special feature was that her face was pale like a corpse. Suddenly, a cold breeze penetrated through him and he woke up with a shiver. Ben found that there was a pretty girl sitting next to him. Ben quickly looked around and he found that it was a forest.

Ben was really delighted that he could meet this girl. He stared at her quietly and didn't say anything. Then, the girl smiled and said, "I'm Grace. What's your name?" Ben grinned foolishly at her and stammered, "I... I'm Ben. Nice to meet you!" "It's my pleasure", Grace replied and bowed. Ben discovered that Grace had two razor-sharp teeth so he asked her why she had them. At that time, Grace's attitude changed dramatically and she sneered. "The reason is", Grace laughed, "I am a vampire!" Ben was shocked through every cell in his body. He started running away as fast as he could to escape; however, Grace changed into a bat and flew extremely fast at Ben.

He felt something hit his bottom and he woke up immediately. He checked what it was and it was the book he was reading in the castle. Ben left the book and ran away from the graveyard. No one found the graveyard and the book again. It remains a mystery even till today.





# Why electronic gadgets are not always good for us?

2D Ho Tsz Ka



Good morning, teachers and fellow schoolmates. I am Phoenix Ho from class 2D. Nowadays, many people are using electronic gadgets all the time. They play the hand-held gaming system all time even on the train. But, have they ever thought about the harm of electronic gadgets? Probably not!

There are many types of electronic gadgets nowadays, such as cell phones, hand-held gaming systems and i-products. All of them are useful and fun. But do you know they have many disadvantages? Almost all electronic gadgets cost a lot. That's why many people want to have an electronic gadget to show off in front of their friends or to make them envious. Some people will just eat bread for their meals because of the cost of electronic gadget. Electronic gadgets are very expensive so many thieves want to steal them and sell them at a good price. This makes theft cases increase.

Also, electronic gadgets will cause health problems. Many teenagers always play the hand-held gaming systems everywhere on the train. Many teenagers just look at the electronic gadgets. A survey from Hong Kong University shows that if we play with electronic gadgets on the train, our eyesight will get worse and cause eyesight problems. Many of the electronic gadgets are touch-screen products so people have to tap the screen with their fingers. It will affect the muscles in our fingers as well. Many people will play electronic gadgets for the whole day so they won't do their work.

Lastly, I hope schoolmates and teachers will not play with electronic gadgets. I am sure they bring more disadvantages than benefits. Thank you.



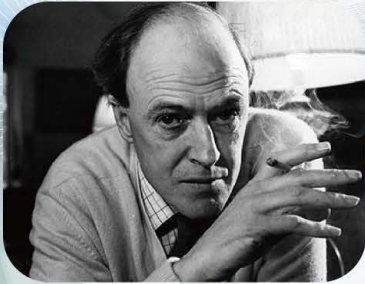


# Comments and suggestions on the book Matilda

3A Lai Wing Wun

Hi Pat,

How are you? Thanks so much for your letter. It was wonderful to hear your news.



Do you know who Roald Dahl is? He is a great writer. I've read his book, Matilda. (I love it with my heart and soul.) If you haven't read it, you must go! The story is about how Matilda – a seven-year-old genius – fights against her terrible parents and even more terrible, tyrannical Trunchbull – the headmistress of the school. She always bullies children and has no kindness at all! It's so horrible, isn't it? Fortunately, Miss Honey – Matilda's teacher is a nice and caring person!

It seems like she is the only one who understands Matilda (Just like you and me). Also Matilda finds that she can use some special power! (Well that's what I always dream of.) So, she manages to use it to threaten Miss Trunchbull and brings peace back to the school. Wow!

This book is awesome! The plot is so creative. I've never heard of (or even thought of) punishing an adult. How come Roald Dahl can imagine it! (Maybe that's his dream.) Also, the wonderful writing skills of Roald Dahl – such as similes, metaphor – made this great story even greater! (I swore I'll try to learn it.) His nice description and creativity earn him a lot of audience. That's why he's so famous!

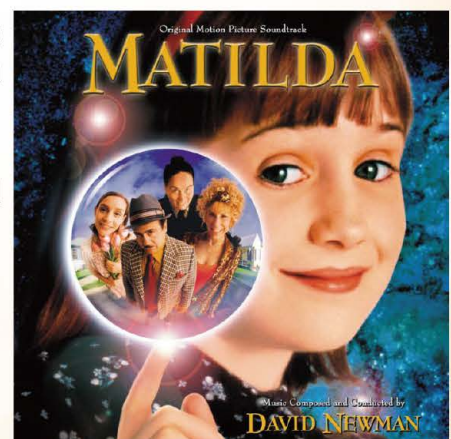
Well, this book is not just a story, but also a lesson to me! I can see that he has put a lot of meanings into his lines. The story of Matilda teaches me to anti bully. If you've read this book, you would realize the calamities of bullying others. Miss Trunchbull is the one that we shouldn't be. (You may ask whom I should learn from.) Well, that should be Miss Honey. She never gives herself up even under the bad condition – you should have known who brought her up, the Trunchbull – and she keeps doing her best, such as learning as much as she can ... She's brave to seek happiness regardless of any bad conditions. (She reminds me of the people in Hong Kong – unlike her – are so weak and always bring about destruction.) We should learn from her, don't you think so? Also, I've begun to realize how lucky I am. I have never met anyone like Matilda's parents or Miss Trunchbull yet in my life. Although I live a normal life, I'm happy. I don't have to live under bullying and fear. I should learn to treasure my parents, my friends (especially you) and the beautiful things around me! (I guess Matilda always treasures Miss Honey as well.)

So, you should read this book! It's really awesome! As soon as you read it, you will find out how meaningful and wonderful it is!

I have to go now because it's time for bed. (I'm a good child and I've never been late for bed. You'd better believe it.)

Bye for now!

Grace





# “Poor, shows me the real”

3B Wong Hoi To

(Second prize of the North District Story Telling Competition)

Why? I get all what I want before. Family, money, children... But why! Why I fall low like this...

My name is James. I was the richest man in the town. I had a biggest house in the town, the most beautiful woman, Jenny as my wife and the two genius children, Sam and Nancy. I let them get in the most excellent school in the town and never allow them get under 80 marks. I was the king of the stock market. Every minute I got almost 20,000 dollars.

Every night when I went back home, my wife always used her sweet voice said, ‘Welcome back, Honey!’ and gave me a big kiss. I got a lot of maids to make the most delicious dinner for us. And my wife and I always wore the most famous brands. Everyone in this town was admiring us.

‘Daddy, Daddy! Look at this! I got 98 marks in this test!’ My little daughter, Nancy said. ‘What is the highest mark in the whole form?’ I asked. ‘99...I think.’ ‘99? Then why do you give this rubbish to me!’ I tore her paper and threw it to the floor. I never allow my children not getting the best. And she always annoyed me with that silly mark.

‘Dad, Dad! Look! I scored the highest in my class in PE and Mr. Smith gave this soccer to me! Isn’t it cool?’ ‘What? Soccer? Why don’t you do better in your studies but go to play this foolish soccer? Only stupid people play soccer! Throw it away, now! I don’t want any soccer in my house!’ I never allow my children to play such kind of things. My children need to be successful men in the future, like what their father is.

I had a happy family. Before ‘that incident’ happened.

I was confident in the stock market. I always bought the right one and I was always the biggest winner. At that time, I had bought the KCCE stocks; I believed that it would continue to go up, up and up because they got a brilliant CEO. But suddenly, the KCCE CEO died of heart attack. Nobody knew that he had got this disease. At one night, all of my money had gone.

The next morning, my wife also knew this news but at that time, she said, ‘Don’t worry, honey. I will be with you no matter what happens.’ As my money was lost, my wife’s attitude had changed. I could not bear her luxurious expenditure anymore. She started venting her anger on me and finally she said, ‘I can’t endure a poor life like this! I have to leave this shabby house!’ ‘But Jenny, you said you will be with me no matter what happens! Please don’t leave me!’ I begged her. ‘That is past tense! Bye, poor man!’ Then, she just left. ‘Wait, Jenny! Wait! I will give you money! Please don’t leave me!’ Although I cried, she never came back.

Suddenly, a little voice came out behind the wall:

‘Daddy?’

‘Dad?’

Nancy? Sam? They were still here!

‘Is that Mommy left? Because Daddy is poor?’ Nancy asked with an innocent voice.

‘Yes...Daddy is poor, now...I can’t buy any dolls for you anymore...If you want to leave daddy, it’s OK...I will send you to your aunt.’ I was hopeless with these two little kids.

‘No, Dad! We won’t leave you!’ Sam said staunchly.

I felt a light suddenly shine on me.

‘Really? But I always blame you!’ I asked hesitantly.

‘Yes! Daddy! Although you always condemn me with the marks, I know that that’s for our own good!’

‘Yes! Dad. Let’s walk out from this difficulty together! Don’t worry, we will never leave you!’

I was happy. But the one who I loved the most actually is the one who do not love me. She was wearing a fake mask until I have no more benefits to her. But oppositely, the one who I don’t care about is the one who love me the most. They do not pay love for any benefits. They just pay their love because we are family.



Tears ran over my face. I don’t want to stop it. I have to express the realest emotion to my family. I hug them and went out from this house. I was walking to a new fate, and a real family.



# *A story with a twist*

3C Chan Tsz Ki

Ryan was a charming fellow. Everyone in school knew about it. He was the prince riding on the white horse in the fairy tales. Every girl in the school wanted to be his princess. Unfortunately, this fascinating boy already had a gorgeous girlfriend in another school. She was Florence. They were madly in love.



One afternoon, Ryan went to Florence's school and waited to go on a date with her. However, Florence came out from school with another handsome guy. They seemed like a romantic couple. This made Ryan jealous and wanted to separate them immediately. He expressed his anger in a wrong way because of his impulse – He took out a pair of scissors and rushed toward her! 'Ah...' Florence exclaimed horribly.

'This is revenge for your betrayal!' Ryan cried with deep feeling. He used the scissors to stab her chest severely in a cruel manner. A huge amount of blood made his hands red, as was announcing the death of this glamorous girl...

A month after Florence's death, Ryan was falling in love with another pretty girl. He wanted to forget about Florence's betrayal. Did it work? He didn't know actually. All the things he knew was he loved this girl, Dara, who was more beautiful than Florence.

'Ryan, my love,' Dara whispered softly beside his ear. 'Do you love me? Who is better, me or your ex-girlfriend?'

Ryan answered without any hesitation, 'Of course you, my dear Dara. I can do anything for you.' Dara smiled sweetly.

'Really? Even go to the hell?' Ryan didn't expect Dara would ask this question. 'Umm...Yes, I do because I love you.'

Dara's face filled with happiness. She hugged Ryan tightly and gave him an intoxicating kiss.

After a long kiss, Ryan felt a strong pain from his chest. He opened his eyes and was stunned by the image in front of him – Dara was changed into a skeleton with thousands of disgusting worms climbing out everywhere! The worms started to crawl from Dara into Ryan's mouth! He tried to shout for help but it didn't work. Before he died, he could hear a woman whispering in his ear. 'This is the revenge of your betrayal!'

Florence! It was Florence!

Later, a report came out: Patient in room 604 died because of a broken heart. He couldn't adapt to the situation of this mental hospital. After his girlfriend's death, he went mad.

The nurse turned around. She had the same face of Florence, and even the voice! My poor Ryan... enjoy this nightmare and sleep forever. 'This is the real revenge for your betrayal,' Florence said with a devil-like wicked smile.



# A Letter to the Editor

3D Chan Cheuk Ying

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Mr. Wan who expressed his idea that young people nowadays spend too much time using the computer and mobile phones. He thought that this generation will become lazy and unhealthy. I agree with him.

First, teenagers spend a lot of their time on computers or mobile phones because they can text their friend easily. They can use Facebook, SMS to find their friends. It is very convenient but this makes them lazy. They do not go out with friends because they can talk and play with them through their computers or mobile phones.

Teenagers become lazy. They avoid doing things such as outdoor activities, studying and talking to their family. There are many ill effects using computers or mobile phones.

There are also health problems. Teenagers spend too much time watching the screen. It will cause some eye diseases. As there are many interesting games on the computers and mobile phones, teenagers are unwilling to take part in outdoor activities. They think that online games are more attractive than outdoor activities. If they do not do any outdoor activities, their performance in physical activities will decline and they will become unhealthy.

I think Mr. Wan's ideas are very good. I have the same ideas; I hope this letter will wake up the youth of today. Otherwise, there will not be any smart children with healthy mind.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong



# A Good Show

3E Ko Cheung Pang

Romeo  
& Juliet

4<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Sunny

It is a wonderful show!

Today, the drama members and I performed the play called Romeo and Juliet at the school hall to celebrate the school's 15th Anniversary. It was an unforgettable experience for us!

We prepared it for the school's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We tried to remember the lines and prepared the music...

When the show started, I needed to encourage the members to help them relax because I was the director! I needed to make sure that everything was perfect and there were no mistakes in it.

When the curtain was drawn, the show started. I did not feel that my drama members were enjoying the show. I thought if I were one of them, I would be scared to face the audience and forget the lines! When the show finished, the audience stood up and gave us a big hand! 'Wow, it's amazing,' I said. I was proud of my members. They laughed loudly.

The school treated us for dinner. The members told me that they learnt more English from the show. When I heard it, I felt happy for them.

'Isn't it a wonderful show?' I asked myself. 'Sure, it is a wonderful show! And it was a meaningful experience for us!' They told me that they would not forget it! They asked me whether I was happy or not. I said, 'Yes! Of course! Yes!'



# FOREVER STAR OF CANTONESE

4B Liu Wai Lim



People who speak Cantonese must know “Beyond”. Nowadays, many people like rock music and many people want to be rock stars because of the influence of Beyond. You might ask, since the vocal singer Ka-kui Wong has died 19 years already, why does Beyond still have this big effect? Read this article and you will know the answer.

In the 80’s, Cantonese singers were popular in East Asia. Beyond was one of them. Their songs appealed to Taiwanese, Japanese, mainland Chinese, and of course, Hongkongers the most. Beyond’s songs were successful not just because of their melody but also their lyrics. Moreover, the feelings it gave people were key to its success. It is the most important thing for rock music, because without feelings, it is not rock music, it is just pop.

The brother of Ka-kui Wong, Ka-keung Wong, who is a bass player, was very sad after his brother died in Japan accidentally in 1994. The guitar player, Paul Wong and drummer, Sai-wing Yip supported him to walk out from the sadness. Then, these three people formed Beyond again until 2000.

Although Beyond broke up, Ka-keung, Paul and Sai-Wing have not given up hope for rock music, they just went separate ways. Sai-wing teaches people on how to play the drums in China and Paul is still a singer and guitar player and we can always hear his rough voice and metal guitar from TV. Songs from “When the heaven burns” are produced by him. Now, you can see why I said Beyond never died

Whether you like rock music or not, I recommend all of you to listen to Beyond’s songs. For your parents, they were memories. For you, they are the elements of your life. For your sons or daughters, they will be the icons of Cantonese rock music. Everyone is Beyond, including you and me.

Before Beyond was famous, they did not care about anything as they really loved music. They were poor in their childhood. They saved all their pocket money and spent all their money on rock music. Therefore, they succeeded. There are no free lunches. To be Beyond, to realize your dream, just pay and pay, and you can also make it one day.

Let’s go BEYOND now!

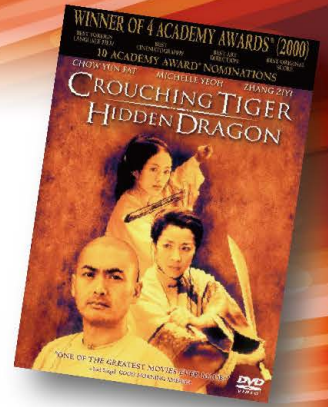




## A Film review

4C Chan Hok Yin

I watched a film with a friend today. It was a Chinese film called 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'. It was fantastic, especially the visual effects. The characters fought with each other and made the film breathtaking. The actors shone too. My favorite actress is Zhang Ziyi. She was amazing.



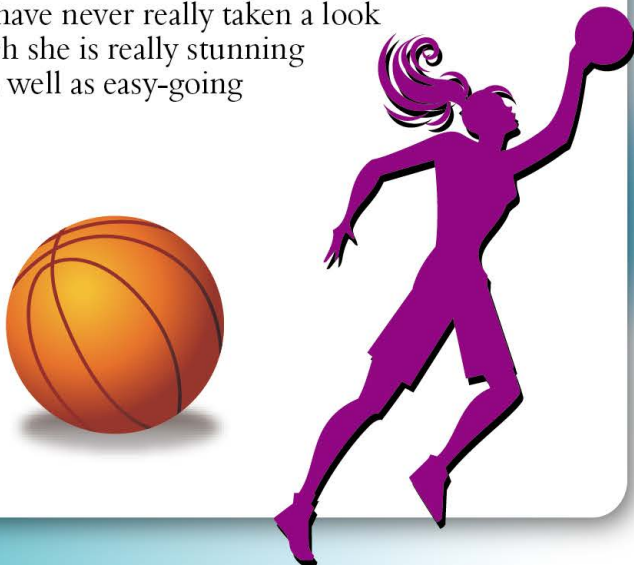
I thought the ending of the film was excellent because the good guys finally killed all the bad guys. Although some good guys were killed by their enemies, the victory still went to the good guys. Maybe someone will think that this film is boring and the casting isn't fantastic. But I want to tell them they are wrong because this film has many famous actors and actresses – the casting isn't very bad. Although this film has many points to praise, it still has some criticisms. What the film disappointed me is the acting of the supporting roles. They act terribly and to me, it was unacceptable. Apart from that, the sound track is another weak point of the film. The background music isn't attractive enough.

To conclude, however, I will also recommend this film to my friends. Hope that they will love it.

## My friend - Cheung Ho Yan

4E Tsui Ka Wai

Certainly she is a sporty girl,  
the one and only one in the world  
A short girl with long straight hair,  
always puts the basketball in the air  
Cool girl, she likes Greyson Chance,  
no way to give other boys a chance  
Although silly comics are her favourite book  
I have never really taken a look  
Oh she is really stunning  
as well as easy-going



## Earth Day

4E Yu Long Ching

Every day we play and live on Earth  
Are you concerned about its health?  
Rather than producing harmful pollution  
This is the chance for us to show our care  
Here I am. How about you?  
Do something for our home at least on this day  
A little effort can help a lot  
Year by year, it is 22 April. Don't forget!





# Bald and Beautiful

(Entry of A Short Story Writing Competition 2012)

4B Chan Sum Yee

4B Tse Man Ho

4D Lam Wai Ying

4D Ng Chun Ming, Matthew

Her hair looked like defecated excrement. It smelled just as bad too. It took a moment for Disney to overcome the shock of seeing herself in the mirror; before she decided what to do next.

She screamed.

Disney could not afford to walk outside, or near a window. She covered her head with her bed sheet, rushed into the bathroom, and locked the door behind her. She washed her hair ten times. Even though she used tomato juice, the smell was still alive. She put on a large hat and mask to cover her face and went to the nearest salon.

"Q-U-I-C-K-L-Y! Five-Thousand dollars!" Disney rapidly shoots off her instructions to the stylist. "Emergency! Emergency!" she repeats.

"No problem! I'll make the perfect hairdo!" There was no doubt lingering in the stylist voice. The stylist asked Disney to cover her eyes for the surprise unveiling.

Disney's new haircut was smooth, bright and incredibly shiny. "You can open your eyes now!" the stylist instructed enthusiastically. "I can honestly say that this is my best work ever."

Disney opened her eyes. Bald.

Disney ran out of the salon without paying.

On the way home, where Disney can crawl into her bed and hide from the world, a child pointed at her head and laughed. "Mommy, look at that head. Does she want to be a monk?"

Disney cried and tried to use her hands to fill the empty void between and above her ears. At home, with her curtains drawn and the door securely locked, the only thing she could do was to buy wigs. She bought many wigs through the internet.

Disney got a call from her boyfriend, Ocean, inviting her to go to Ocean Park. Disney was speechless. Ocean was persistent, "Great! I'll see you next week."

Thank goodness, Disney's wigs will arrive before the big date. Disney went to Ocean Park with her boyfriend, Ocean. They rode different rides and played different games. Ocean suggested Disney riding on The Abyss.

Disney hesitated for a moment. Disney looked up at the Abyss - the chairs were jumping up and then falling down. Disney could only think about her hair. "... I ... don't want to ride... ride on it... NO!" Disney finally stammered and tugged on her wig; securing it in place.

Disney's quiet reluctance was quickly dismissed. "Why? You should try it!" Ocean grabbed her hand and led Disney into the queue.

Disney and Ocean stepped onto the ride. Disney held Ocean's hand tightly with one hand, leaving her other hand to secure what's left of her hair. The ride started and Disney's heart beat faster and faster. At the climax of the ride, Ocean started screaming. However, the screaming didn't last long when Ocean saw something unusual flying above his head.

Disney felt a cool breeze sweeping above her smooth head.

"Bald... Bald Eagle!" Ocean yelled in disbelief.

Her wig was gone. It flew into the sky and floated down like a piece of paper caught in the wind.

Disney's heart sank. "Please don't look at me! All the people will see my shaved head. They can't know - especially Ocean!"

Ocean's jaw didn't drop. "Your head is quite smooth!" Ocean gave a reaffirming smile. And he took off his wig. Disney's jaw dropped as Ocean handed over his wig to cover Disney's head. Ocean continued, "Nobody will discover your bald head."

Disney screamed. "Baboon butt head! Get away from me!" Disney flailed her arms and legs to break free of Ocean and the Abyss.

Ocean walked home alone filled with sorrow, grief and anguish. "Appearance ... is ... not ... everything ..." Ocean mumbled under his breath.



# “Lost Beauty”

(Entry of A Short Story Writing Competition 2012)

4B Lo Wai Chung  
4D Choy Ching Yuet  
4A Leung Yip Fung  
4B Liu Wai Lim

Is that really me? I don't know.

Jennifer stood in front of her mirror, reading a small note,

“Dear Jennifer,

You are invited to our secret party. Time and place are as usual.

Yours sincerely,  
The Secret Party Association”



“Oh, no! How am I getting to the party in one hour?! Where's my foundation? My eye shadow? My lipstick?” She rushed quickly to put on her make up. The intricate level of complexity, in her application of make up, was a testament of her own skill. She could have easily been doing make up for celebrities; but was always too self-absorbed to be concerned about how others look.

“Now... what to wear?” Jennifer started to calm down as she pulls out a sparkling golden dress. The sparkles on the dress match nicely with the sparkles eluded in her eye shadow. “Done! I look beautiful.”

This level of beauty really takes time. And now, she was going to be late. Breaking a few traffic rules don't apply to beautiful people. Jennifer never got a speeding ticket but she could always flirt her way out of it with her puppy eyes.

Jennifer was thirty minutes late, but it didn't matter. The party never starts before Jennifer is given her grand entrance. She is the bell of the ball. She sparkles in the chandelier. She is the party.

At the party, Jennifer used her extraordinary social skills. Peter, one of her wooers, chatted with Jennifer at the party just as he did at every party. However, when Peter briefly went away, a girl came. Jennifer couldn't actually see her face clearly due to the dim light. Clearly, this girl could never sparkle as Jennifer does.

“So, you like Peter, do you?” said the girl in a trembling voice.

“Why yes, I do,” Jennifer replied, “He is a gentleman.”

“That's too bad, a gentleman deserves a gentle-woman,” she continued in a slow voice. Jennifer just stared back, clueless at what was going to happen next; “You know what I mean! Stay away from Peter!”

Jennifer collapsed. Wine was mixing with shattered pieces of glass and blood as it soaked the carpet of the party floor.

Jennifer awoke barely hearing anything; but she could make this out, “You'll have a scar on your face forever.” And the voice trailed off into silence.

Jennifer never appeared in the parties. All her admirers vanished. Her cosmetics, her dresses were left untouched. Her credit card was not used for months.

With nothing else to do inside her house, Jennifer found her assailant through her online profile. Time passed into months as Jennifer carefully plotted and devised her cold dish of revenge. Her name was Vivian. Vivian was now engaged to Peter and they'll be getting married in the coming year.



Jennifer went to Korea for facial surgery. Only the best! Even the best could never be enough to reclaim her beauty. Jennifer rejoined the night scene and went to the secret parties. She knew she needed a new social tool to be the life of the party again, seduction.

She seduced every gentleman at every party. At any one time, she would be surrounded by handsome eligible bachelors; surrounded by the deadly gaze of every jealous woman in the club. Jennifer drew greater confidence in this. She was definitely just as beautiful, but much more wicked inside.

Peter didn't recognize Jennifer from that fateful night, but Vivian knew who she was immediately. For the rest of the night, Peter never could take his eyes off Jennifer. Vivian knew that that was a problem that needed to be solved.

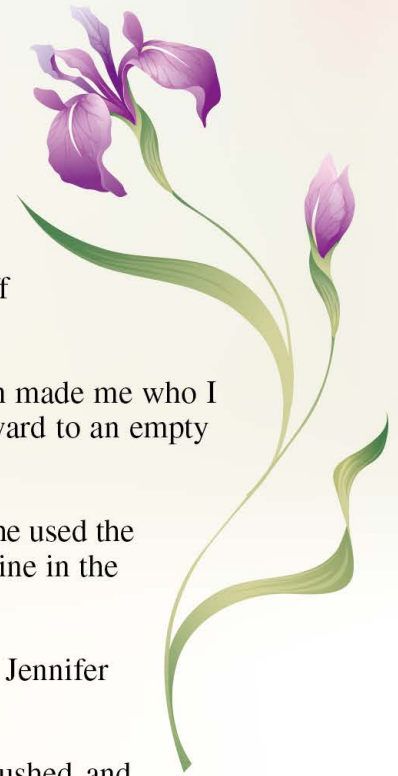
That night, they met each other outside in a dark alley outside the club. "Vivian made me who I am today. She is the evil one! Not me!" Jennifer rationalized and took a step forward to an empty wine bottle in the rubbish bin.

Jennifer wrapped her hand around the bottle, "If Vivian is the evil one because she used the bottle to destroy my face, does that make me as evil as her?" Perhaps it was the wine in the bottle talking, but Jennifer caught a glimpse of her own reflection in the bottle.

"Who is this? Who am I? Is that really me? Do I recognize this young woman?" Jennifer stared at her own reflection in the bottle.

Vivian recognized the opportunity and didn't hesitate, like Jennifer. Vivian rushed and pushed Jennifer into traffic. Jennifer was badly hurt, with blood covered her face.

A shattered face. A shattered glass of wine. A shattered bottle. And a shattered life.



## A Letter to Steve Jobs

5D Yeung Ah Sin

Dear Steve Jobs,

Hey, Mr. Steve, I am very glad to write a letter to you. I think it is a huge pity that you no longer live in the world. You are the genius. You make a myth of the world and make a magic for everyone in the world. Do you know how popular of your products---Apple? Every day I can see the occurrence of iphones, ipads, ipods, they are around me every day. Actually, I have an ipod as well. However, why are people hooked on your product? In my opinion, the efficiency and the appearance of the products attract the customers most. There is no doubt that your products are extremely successful. They brought lots of unexpected surprises to us and let us try new technology, new creative technique. Do you agree?

As we all know, the process for you to realize your dream is really difficult. Right? I know you really love the computer design, so you learn it by yourself. That's why your fonts were unique. Not only your hand-writing attitude, but also your never-give-up attitude. You take advantages of what you have learnt before and put them into practice. Finally, you could create a new one! You are the king of innovation!

I am so proud of you! You are the apple of the world's eye. Our society improved because of your determination and efforts. Just like the slang: "WHERE THERE 'S WILL, THERE'S A WAY!" Although you left this world, we will never forget you! Everybody was depressed and felt dismay about your death. We will always miss you! Hope you can enjoy a marvelous life in the paradise!



Best wishes,  
Helen Yeung



# Friends in a virtual world

5A Chan Kwan Yui, Mathew

(Third prize in the North District Public Speaking Competition)



Good morning, ladies and gentleman. Today, I am here to tell you that on your Facebook account, you may have 546 friends, but in reality, you actually have none. One of my classmates had the same problem. She believes that all her friends are on her Facebook account. One day, she lost access to Facebook for twenty minutes and she went crazy because she was very lonely. She felt helpless and isolated from the world. Ironically, her parents were just a few footsteps from her. Simply, a lot of us have completely indulged in the virtual world. So you might ask, what's the problem? Let me explain.

Something that really, really annoys me about the social media is all those notifications or messages I get. And they make me more and more irascible. I DON'T WANT TO INSTALL PET SOCIETY. I DON'T CARE ABOUT MAFFIA WARS. I DON'T WANT YOUR STUPID EMAILS ABOUT YOUR PATHETIC FARM. These online pals send all that trash to me. That is all that I can claim of their existence. I don't think they are even my friends at all. And the most paradoxical is, we swallow that trash without thought today, and it passes away the next day. We are all wasting our time viewing useless information instead of going out with our friends.

Now, what are real friends like? Every weekend and holiday, I go out with my friends to have a gathering together. We go shopping, sing karaoke, and spend time joyfully and zestfully. Sometimes we go on hiking or cycling on sunny days. All this interaction, all this time having fun together, should be the way we make friends and build close bonds. To be honest, I have never ever experienced such fun and enthusiasm with my virtual friends.

As you can see, the social network couldn't apply the crucial elements of digging into relationships with our friends. What will you do if you are asked a random question like, "What's the most popular food in America?" Will you...option one, ask your friends beside you and start a discussion. Option two, take out your smartphone and search it in the Net. Or option three, ask Siri. The same thing happens everyday in the restaurants. Kids and teens are glued to their phones and electronic devices. They look like hollow tree logs with the same posture and shut mouths. When I go out with my parents to share dim sum, my parents and their friends laugh and share about everything. I can really see the enthusiasm among them and the close bonds they have built. But, look at their children. These dead logs are nosing in their smartphones busy scrolling and tapping away. If you try to ask them what they want to drink, their only response is "a meaningless grunt". I totally don't get what they mean.

Yes, there have been immense advances in technology in most aspects of our lives, especially in the field of socializing. However, the social media could not replace how we laugh, how we argue, how we love. Only giving our time truly for one another can we form trusting and genuine friendships.





# Manage People, Manage Yourself

5B Chan Yan Yee

When the words ‘accounting’, ‘management’ ‘clerk’ are mentioned, will you consider these things are boring? Look, before I joined the Student Job Experience programme held by the human resources department, I thought exactly the same thing. Seriously, nobody would like to stay in the office all the time because nobody wants to repeat the same action-typing for an entire day, even if there are air-conditioners. However, I actually found it really interesting. Don’t believe me, do you? Let me tell you my experience to persuade you.

The office was as silent as being under water. You can hear a clip drop on the floor. A middle-aged man came to me and gave me something to do as an assistant. I thought, the things I had to do were just typing, calculating or buying drinks. The man took me to a room with a lot of files built up high, which I’d never seen before. A well-suited young lady came in and told me that I would be her assistant in the next few days. I was a little bit chicken-hearted at that time – would she be as mean as the boss in *The Devil Wears Prada*? Surprisingly no; she was so kind that I wanted to be her assistant forever.

In the human resources department, I needed to help my ‘boss’ deal with those files and find new and talented people for different departments of the accounting firm. The filing really sucks but fortunately other colleagues helped. One of the more significant experiences was that I took part in an official interview. My job was to jot notes and make record the behaviour of those interviewees.

It has truly broadened my horizons! Living in our school, we rarely see how the people are outside. Not just appreciating their talents and intelligence, but also consider the most suitable position for them so that their talent will not be buried. It was difficult and challenging but undoubtedly fun. It is similar to online war games (real-time-strategy) some people are playing, you put different soldiers into different positions.

During the interview, I could see confident faces and the different ways people express themselves, just like a hero showing his weapon. My boss taught me how to make good use of the interviewees. For instance, for a clever but lazy person, you’d better offer him some ‘thoughtful’ jobs such as creating a surprising idea. Then the hard-working people should proceed on a project by using the idea as a template. Sometimes, I think my boss has made good use of me!

So what have I learnt from the week when I was an assistant? Let’s not mention the busy moment of managing files. The most important thing I have learnt from this fruitful experience is to know and understand ourselves thoroughly so that we can do our best. Different people have different talents, but they are also imperfect. We need to make good use of our talents and try to avoid mistakes caused by our imperfection. How? Easy! Once you understand yourselves well, you will know how to cure your weakness. Once you can do this, everything will be in your palm.

Even though you may not be interested in human resources management, you should still take a deep analysis of yourself. Managing people can be challenging, but managing yourself will be even more difficult. Yet, it is a must in order to make your life successful.



# The Black Wardrobe

5C Choi Lai Kuen



I don't like being compared with others, but I do like arguing with others! People always do comparison with me. I really hate it but at the same time, I could have an argument with others.

Since I was born, comparisons have been bombarding my whole life. 'Whoa! Your sister's more beautiful!' 'Your sister's taller than you, but you look older than her!' 'Your sister seems cleverer than you, she got Number 1 in her class!' ... Your sister, your sister, your sister! Why do they always make comparison between my sister and me? We are totally two different people!

If I don't have any sisters, no one will make comparison on me! I hate my sister!

One day, a magician came to our town to perform his magic. My sister and I went to see magic with enthusiasm. We both think that magic is so amazing and we like magic so much!

The magician said that he could transfer people into another place through the black wardrobe and could go anywhere as he was asked to. The thing you had to do was to keep thinking that place first and walk into that wardrobe, close your eyes and count to ten, then you would arrive at your dream place! When you wanted to come back, you just needed to find that black wardrobe at your dream place, go inside and do the same thing!

Sounds interesting!

But no one went inside the black wardrobe to have a try. They were all not brave enough! The magician looked smug. I hated him! A light bulb appeared above my head – I wanted to have a try!

That day, I was 12.

I walked into the wardrobe, everybody looked at me, especially my sister! She looked worried, shocked and sad. But I got a big smile on my face! 'I wanna go to a place that has no comparison, no families, but only my friends and the most important thing – that real magic exists! Just like Harry Potter!' I said to myself.

The magician helped me to close the door and I closed my eyes. 1...2...3...4... I started feeling something under my feet moving. 6...7...8... Some wind welcomed me. 9...10! I felt warm, with sunshine on my face.

I opened my eyes. The black wardrobe's gone.

The town's still here, but none of the people looked at me. They were just walking around and did their own things. I looked around, trying to find my sister, but she wasn't there.

Then I went back to my home slowly. Nothing had changed, I thought. People were still walking and not flying. All the houses were still the same.



I got into the house but no one's there. It was a clean house with little furniture, no pictures, no other rooms, as if I was living by myself all the time. There's no comparison finally! I could live on my own!

I ran out to the street and looked for my friends. They were all there! But the strange thing was they said I was an orphan with no parents. I wanted to argue with them because I didn't like that word "ORPHAN", but then I thought I really had no family in this place! They were telling the truth!



I talked to them for a while and I found that they all had a stick on their hands, just like the one of Harry Potter's. They all learnt magic in the so-called school and the games they played were not hide-and-seek anymore. They used magic to let them fly and play football above the ground. I could only watch them play on the ground because I didn't know how to use magic. It was a shame that I got the magic power but I couldn't use it!

They started ignoring me because of my innocence – an orphan knew nothing about magic and stood on the ground to watch them play! I felt sad that I saved them in my new life and they just ignored me!

I walked home. Still no one was here. Loneliness suddenly conquered my heart. There was no more excitement in my mind. I wanted to hear comparison between my sister and me so that I could argue with them.

I wanted to go back.

"BLACK WARDROBE! I could go back when I found it! But how did the wardrobe disappear? Never mind, I could find it as long as the wardrobe is in this town!" I told myself, feeling relieved.

I started my journey to find the wardrobe and because I had no money to buy any food to eat, I kept working in different places that I had gone through. Also, I asked the people that I had seen but unfortunately, no new clue could be found to help me. They even said that they had never seen a wardrobe that was black!

I wandered around, just like a vagrant. Luckily, the people in this town were all kind-hearted. They taught me magic that made me live more easily, I bought a stick that also helped me a lot.

Sometimes I would find black furniture. But when I got closer and opened the door, that always disappointed me. Perhaps it was a refrigerator, perhaps it was a shoes cabinet, but I could never find a wardrobe.

One day, a child told me that she found a black wardrobe. I took my walking stick and followed the girl immediately. 'It's just like the one that had got into...'

I opened the door. A smile appeared on my face.

That day, I was 82.



# 15th Anniversary

“Stop! You should stop the talent show now!” Everyone in the school felt confused. Instead, I really didn’t know who the man was shouting. “You shouldn’t perform this drama *The Lord of Darkness* in this talent show because a wizard had already put a curse on this drama. Please trust me and don’t perform it!” Of course, nobody trusted him and thought he was mad. But after the show, I really trusted what he said.

When we were performing the drama, I felt freezingly cold. I thought maybe it was due to the air-conditioners. But I really felt regretful not to trust the man. “HA...” We heard somebody laughing. We tried to find out that person. However we couldn’t. Suddenly, the hall became dark and a man appeared.

Everybody felt shocked. I thought the main reason was they had seen a man suddenly appear. Instead, I worried what he would do. “I am The Lord of Darkness since those of you have released me. I can give those of you a wish. What do you want?” “The Lord of Darkness? You must be kidding! Actually I am going to leave. Goodbye, MY LORD!” A flash suddenly hit him and turned him into sand. “Don’t try to rebel me!” the Lord of darkness shouted. “What can we do? He is CRAZY! He is going to kill all of us!!!” the audience yelled. Actually, I was thinking how to stop him. “Wow! I know it. If we perform the drama once again from the end to the opening, we may stop him” “NO!!!!!! I won’t be stopped again!” The Lord of Darkness cried. However, some of the audience tried to stop him and said, “Do the drama again and we will stop him, just do it!” Finally, we did the drama again and as what I had thought: The Lord of Darkness had gone.

After this incident, I made a promise. This drama should not be shown again! This is my special experience of the school’s 15th anniversary. Do you trust me? I don’t care whether you trust me or not but I have to remind you one thing: please do not perform this drama: The Lord of DARKNESS again!!!!!!.....



# Amazing People Nomination Form

6A Hung Yuen Man



Do you think adversity makes a man? Or do you agree that fate always controls human life? The experience of a scientist, Stephen Hawking, would definitely prove the former. His perseverance has produced a lot of miracles. Here, I would like to nominate Stephen Hawking for the person of the year. My reasons are as follows:

## Achievements

In spite of suffering from an incurable disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and becoming permanently disabled, Stephen Hawking has created a lot of miracles. In the aspect of science, he suggested the theory of Singularity and proved that a black hole must occur at the Big Bang. Moreover, he discovered two prominent discoveries of the nature of black holes, which created a great shock in the scientific society. Owing to his tremendous dedication, he earned a host of honorary degrees, awards, prizes, and lectureships from major universities and scientific societies in Europe and America. With such a rare and challenging disability, he has still achieved these accomplishments.

## Contribution to society

All of us know that Stephen Hawking is paralysed and disabled, however, his enormous accomplishments can be prominent examples for the disabled. By showing his ability to overcome these adversities and living a fulfilling and independent life, he instills a positive message to every disabled person. He has demonstrated that any disability may slow you down and interrupt your life, but it does not mean it is the end. You can still do great things and prove your worth.

## Role model for youth

Nowadays, teenagers give up easily when it comes to adversity. Stephen Hawking can play a good role model to teenagers. Hawking has claimed that 'clear goals', 'determination', and 'humble attitude' are his three main keys to success. 'It matters if you just don't give up' is his famous quote. Needless to say, his experience has already shown that perseverance bears fruits. Undergoing numerous setbacks and challenges before reaping the fruits of success is the fact we should all know. So, it is time for us to set an unshakeable goal and fulfill it with our tenacity.





# **A blessing or a curse?**

6B Wong Hui Wai, Sharon

For such a long time in Hong Kong, students stay naïve about work due to their hectic studies. They also have no expectations to work in society. At best, we can say that they are whole-hearted over their responsibilities as a student. At worst, we can say that most of them are interpersonally-retarded. In response to the rising concerns of the public about immature students, some employers and educationists have come up with a possible solution – by referring to the common practices in Europe and North America, students may be granted a single year to work fulltime before entering university. Some endorse this suggestion, regarding it as a boost towards the weakness of spoiled students, while some view it at another extreme, stating that it would be a vain attempt to have them gain experience before they are fully educated.

Among the discussions aroused, those who appreciate the idea of the one-year working experience mainly hold the following points:

In the first instance, they deem that sole academic study is not enough for any youth to develop as a whole person. We criticize teenagers as irresponsible, interpersonally immature, reckless, self-centered, and they fall short of the expectations of the society. Yet, never would those who have raised the incompetent teens, nor those who have taught the adolescents or those who have set up the education system for the young people ever ask why. The lacking-teens phenomenon throws lights on the ill-considered education system. So, coinciding with the condemnation towards teens, some have stood up to deal with the problem at hand, instead of blaming the new generation as bad learners. What they expect is that, through the one-year experience, students can gain interpersonal skills and problem-solving strategies from the workplace. Despite the rich knowledge students can gain, their personal development should be placed at a high priority. Working on their own is one way for students to gain invaluable lifelong experience. Although commencing their job is going to be difficult, the fruits harvested are worthwhile. Through getting along with colleagues they would secure social skills, through communicating with clients they would learn how to place themselves in others' shoes, through working completely on their own without mentoring they would acquire the ability to fend for themselves in this cut-throat competitive society.

If even some of the students are mature and sophisticated enough in handling various social affairs, it is still beyond dispute that good working experience cannot be found in them. Casting light to this conviction,

isn't the purpose of receiving tertiary education to better prepare students for work? However, employers and educationalists have started to become so skeptical towards the education system that even with its unbelievably tremendous study workloads, graduates are still not meeting employers' expectations. In spite of their profuse professional knowledge, more often than not, they are unable to solve problems and they are not down to earth. To learn workplace-skills, students must take advantage of internships to put theory into practice. Therefore, employers and educationalists feel compelled to grant them the chance of a one-year full-time working opportunity so as to be more competent employees in society.

Nevertheless, those who oppose this working scheme are doubtful about its effectiveness. They argue that the single year does not carry much weight and it would only be a waste of students' time.

To start with, they state that the incompetence of students should not be attributed to the lack of experience at this stage. They continue by arguing that if students were to cease their studies, they would just relax to the point where laziness would then take over. Therefore, this one-year working opportunity would just be a waste of everyone's time. For those who oppose it, they state that it is ineffective and not meaningful to give students such a long time, but instead should be incorporated into the school curriculum. The one-year full-time working scheme to them appears not to be the solution to the problem.

Over and above all, the extra time for students to start their studies again is another concern. They do not deny the importance of experience, however, studies should be equally crucial. This single gap means that in this period of time, books are left out of the students' concentration, which is unacceptable to them. The extra time required for students to pick up on their studies again is seemingly unrealistic and impractical. There are still many opportunities for students to gain experience in their later life. However, the chance to study is a far-fetching one once they have started to work.

All in all, despite society's endorsement towards the indispensability of experience and personal growth, some may oppose the suggestion of the one-year working scheme due to their doubts about the overall effectiveness. Nevertheless, I deem it sarcastic if students can really learn effectively and meaningfully without a fully-grown mind. To me, to soothe the more and pervasive phenomenon of immaturity of graduated students, my suggestion would be a definite antidote to the weakness of our next generation.



# Have a good lunch

6C Shek Chung Yan

As a traditional Chinese saying goes, “Hunger breeds discontentment.” No matter who we are, we have to eat to live. Having lunch is a complicated issue, especially in Hong Kong, that most of the students and workers only have about an hour to do so. How should this precious hour to be precisely planned for us, such numerous students?



Some schools may have been considered for a long time and finally concluded the new rule: all students should be confined to the school grounds at lunch time and can only have lunch supplied by the school caterer. However, many of us oppose this plan with loopholes.

First, students should enjoy the freedom on self-movement, especially the senior form students. Although the junior form students are too young for eating out, senior form students are mature enough to eat out. They should not be confined to the school grounds at lunchtime. Therefore, it is unreasonable to restrict all students' option. Instead it would be more rational to confine junior form students to the school grounds.

Second, some students may not afford having lunch at school. Those students who have financial problems would go home for lunch instead of having lunch at school, because they have to save money. Thus, forcing those students having lunch supplied by the school caterer at school is not a sensible decision. We have to consider their situation.



Thirdly, there is not enough space at the school grounds. There are totally a thousand of students in most of the schools in Hong Kong, but the grounds can only hold around 800 people. It would be too crowded if all students have lunch at the grounds. The school should not arrange all students to have lunch at the school grounds. It would be better if students have lunch at their own classrooms.

Although this plan may be convenient for the schools to manage students' lunch time, it is not fair to students. I hope those schools will consider seriously and cancel the new rule.



# Should commercial elements be put in films?

6D Ng Wing

In these few years, the phenomenon of increasing commercial elements being added to the film production is such pervasive that it prevails among the film producers. Some audiences criticized it for the disruption by frequent shots of consumer products appearing in the film, while the film producers claimed it as an indispensable element for production.

Frankly speaking, adding the shots of consumer products in films has some undeniably overwhelming advantages to film producers and sponsors.

From the perspective of the film producers, the enormous benefits could be brought from product placement in films. Some film producers are encountering and facing formidable road blocks in earning the profits. Those infamous producers need to bear the pressure of the profit of its films. For prestigious producers, suffice it to say, never had they needed to worry the problem of facing loss. Nevertheless, it is a drastically different story for the small and inexperienced producers, the revenue from promoting the consumer products may become the panacea they can only rely on. Therefore, the revenue of showing the consumer products helps those producers indeed.

Better still, adding the shots in the film is mutually beneficial to the sponsors. The frequent shots of their consumer products are one of the efficient and effective ways of promotion. The attention of Millions of audience would be drawn by the frequent shots of the products once the film was released. The promotional effects are manifest. You can ensure its products can be known by innumerable audience. This reveals that showing consumers products in films is absolutely a valid way to promote the products, and of course, maximize their profits.

Granted the above, it seems that the special shots of the consumer products are bringing benefits to the film producers and sponsors. However fabulous as it seems to be, as we scratch the splendid surface, we find problems are brewing.

On the movie buff's ground, the frequent shots of consumer products had induced the dissatisfaction of the audience who are unwilling to be disturbed from enjoying the magnetic plots of the film. However, with the frequent placement of product promotion, audiences are annoyed even though they make every endeavor to neglect these shots. They cannot concentrate on the plot of the film, let alone being immersed in the plot and atmosphere created by the actors.

Worse still, the creativity of scripters would be constrained as the use of consumer products may limit the way they were presented to audience.

Owing to the use of product placement, the scriptwriters have to spare a thought on how to promote and show those products in a suitable way and pertinent time. The original scenes may be adversely affected and the emergence of consumer products means the creativity of the scriptwriter is given priority to profit- maximizing goal.

From the aforementioned, despite its effectiveness, the use of products placement actually defeats the atmosphere and the way of appreciating a heart- touching and brilliant movie. The purpose of earning profits should not be built at the expense of disturbing the atmosphere and the creativity of scriptwriters. As the saying goes, 'One rotten apple spoils the barrel'. All film makers should think twice before they decide whether those consumer products will be involved in their unique film production. Otherwise, even an inconspicuous action can tarnish the reputation of an extraordinary film.



# A Letter to the Editor

6E Tsui Lai Fan, Fanny

Dear Editor,

So far, there have been a lot of public debates over the songs containing swearwords. So controversial is this issue that it arouses ample discussion among different circles in Hong Kong. Those people who are in favour of those songs claim that they are not really so problematic. Some people, however, assert that the songs containing foul language do negatively influence on a society. Considering both sides of the issue, I put forward the idea that those songs are the symbol of Hong Kong – an open-minded city possessing rights and freedoms. They should not be condemned but have the right to exist in a society. The reasons are chiefly as follows:

To start with a piece of strong evidence, that Hongkongers can relish the right of freedom of speech is beyond dispute. That Hong Kong possesses freedom of speech must be well-known. Hongkongers can freely express their thoughts by texts and speeches as long as their actions are not too extreme and illegal. In America, so pervasive are songs containing foul language that it is not as widely concerned as in Hong Kong. These songs are even prevalent and popular worldwide. It shows that the freedom of speech simultaneously brings much freedom of creativity. The regulation is not as tough and as harsh as that in China. We should neither ban those songs nor disdain them if we want Hong Kong to be an open-minded city that relishes the freedom of speech.

Additionally, that songs are the efficacious channels for artists to express themselves is undeniable. Only by acquainting the meaning of the lyrics of the songs can we as listeners figure out the views and thoughts of someone who created the songs. There are so many views among different groups of people in Hong Kong that people's thoughts may not be unanimous. Some people may be dissatisfied about the policies of the government. Their tiny power, however, is not strong enough to change anything, despite their immensely negative emotions. Hence, composing songs containing swearwords has become the right channel for people to voice their discontent and to relieve their grievances. The songs may appeal to other listeners having similar views to the singers and the 'soul' of the song comes from the lyrics. These songs can also arouse the attention and provoke discussions in society.

Another view is that, creating songs freely without regulating its lyrics shows the cultural diversity of a country. Songs are one of the combinations of culture. If songs contain only formal language, they will be monotonous and would not cater for citizens nowadays as we citizens' minds become much more open due to the influence of western culture. Not only can songs containing foul language enhance the expression of artists, it also entertains listeners in their spare time. Thus, diversity of culture is indispensable in such a vibrant city like Hong Kong.

It is true that always listening to these types of songs can influence listeners' mind. As adults, however, they should be mature enough to distinguish from the right and the wrong when listening to them. It is prevalent that adults cannot help but say swearwords when angry or frustrated. Likewise, why can't songs sometimes contain foul language so as to enhance their expression of the strong feelings and emotions? In addition, those songs can also create room for teenagers to do reflections. Some foul language is added to the songs because of people's discontent towards the government or social issues. As most students take Liberal Studies, it requires critical thinking. They can ponder about the issues and the news more deeply and analyze whether the songs are suitable for them.

Out of freedom of speech, I, like many other people, hold the view that songs containing foul languages would not influence society as tremendously as other critics claim. It, however, will be better for parents to instill in their children's mind the right values as children may imitate the songs and say swearwords when listening to them. Yet, I am sure that it is not so problematic in this well-educated society.

From what has been discussed above, I put forward the idea that under no circumstances should our freedom of speech and freedom of creativity be deprived. We should respect all songs and cultures, right?

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong



# Overcrowding, irritating

7A Tsui Lai Yan

Hong Kong is celebrated for its thriving economic activities. But behind the scenes, Hong Kong people live in an overcrowded environment. Neither can they enjoy the benefits brought by economic development, nor can they own a comfortable and pleasant home. Many have no choice but to live in cage homes because the land prices in Hong Kong is extremely unaffordable to the underprivileged. Maybe you have not lived in cage homes but you should have travelled on the MTR and other public transports, right? It is so crowded that you can smell the odour of a sweating man standing near you! Do you think overcrowding damages the quality of our life? Absolutely yes!

The first problem caused by overcrowding is noise and air pollution. The air pollution index reaches a serious level because there are so many vehicles on the streets every day. One significant example is Kwun Tong. Not only does the air there contain the exhaust fumes emitted by vehicles, but also smoke from factories. Moreover, you can hear the noise, which is annoying. You are forced to speak loudly when you are on the streets. Otherwise, the one that you are talking to may not be able to hear you! Not only will you feel very uncomfortable, but also irritated when living in such horrible environment. Noise and air pollution are harmful to our health as well. That's why lung cancer is one of the top three diseases suffered by Hong Kong people. Overcrowding is really damaging our health and peaceful life, isn't it?

Home ought to be the most pleasant place where people can rest. Unfortunately, it is not the case for the people living in cage houses. These

houses contain only one bed so residents really live in a very crowded and tiny place. The more terrible fact is that about 20 residents have to share one toilet and kitchen! Do they still possess any privacy? The right to go to the toilet and cook is deprived. Worse still, toilets and kitchens are very unhygienic. Although many people share the same toilet, no one is responsible for cleaning it! Also, no one is responsible for maintaining it so many toilets lack maintenance. Who can disagree with the fact that overcrowding damages our life?



As I have mentioned, noise and air pollution will irritate you so conflict is easily sparked. Without enough open space and recreational facilities, people cannot rest. Stresses accumulate so even a tiny disagreement can lead to irreversible conflicts and damages. For example, two men argue with

each other on the bus after one man accidentally hits another one's leg. Eventually, they beat each other and were arrested by the police. On a crowded bus, it is easy for people to hit others accidentally. However, it is easier to start a physical altercation in an irritating and crowded environment. I do not think that people love arguments, right? It is evident that overcrowding really damages our peaceful life.

Overcrowding is an unavoidable problem in Hong Kong because there are seven million people living in such a small place. I think at least the government should build more public housing estates to improve the terrible living environment for the residents in cage homes. Home should be a place where people can enjoy privacy and relaxation.



# Homeschooling

7S Lai Sze Ka

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my opinions on the pros and cons of homeschooling and whether or not homeschooling is suitable in my neighbour's case. Based on my observation on the teaching method my neighbour employed, I am convinced that homeschooling is suitable for my neighbour.

First and foremost, homeschooling will bring less limitation than the traditional form of education. In homeschooling, tutors or parents and children have a large degree of freedom in terms of learning content, teaching pace, time and duration of lessons and place of learning. On the contrary, in the traditional way of education, there is a fixed curriculum and fixed subjects. The learning content is usually dull and narrow in range. Teachers can only take an average pace in which most of the students can follow. However, for those who cannot catch up, they may feel frustrated and give up easily. Considering the time and duration of lessons, all teachers and students must follow the fixed timetable. Also, the venue of learning is usually fixed, while that in homeschooling, learning can take place in museums, country parks, stadiums and so on; wherever the children prefer.

The second advantage of homeschooling is that there is no stress due to exams. Many students nowadays are under enormous stress due to the forthcoming public exams. As a result, most of them will become too exam-oriented and neglect the content beyond the curriculum. This situation totally defeats the purpose of learning. Yet in homeschooling, this pitfall (of being exam-oriented) can be avoided. To enhance efficiency, students can do some quizzes and tests in form of games, in lieu of dictations and the standard marking schemes. Also, children would not need to attend tutorial schools or do loads of past papers to acquire examination skills.

Every knife cuts both bread and fingers. So, homeschooling must have some shortcomings.

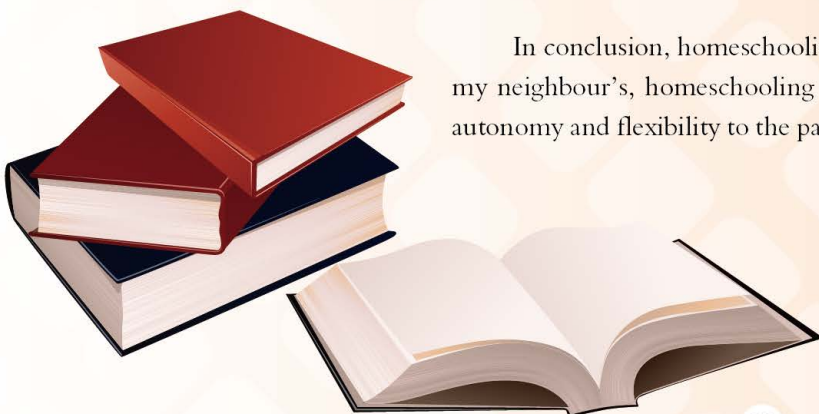
Firstly, there is a lack of training about communication and cooperation skills. In traditional education, students learn how to cooperate with other classmates by doing projects together and joining teams in the school - like prefect team and librarian team. However in homeschooling, children are learning alone, or in some cases, learning with their siblings. Children have fewer opportunities to meet other children with different personalities and from various backgrounds. Children with homeschooling may not be able to cope with complicated inter-personal relationships in the workplace.

The second disadvantage of homeschooling is that children may not learn how to respect rules. In homeschooling, there are no rules to govern the behaviour, dress code and hairstyles of the children. They may attend their lessons with mobile phones in their hands. They can have exaggerating outfits and hairstyles that are prohibited in schools. So, children in homeschooling are prone to have less discipline and easily violate the rules of the society.

I believe there is no problem for my neighbour to homeschooling his nine-year-old girl. He brings his daughter to meet other children everyday in the evening, so his daughter can gain enough exposure to people with different backgrounds. Also, his daughter is a 'whiz kid'. In order to nurture her well, all the shortcomings of homeschooling are outweighed. Also, he seeks help from special legal advice, so that he can go on homeschooling legally.

In conclusion, homeschooling has both pros and cons, but for some special cases like my neighbour's, homeschooling is the best choice. I urge the government to give more autonomy and flexibility to the parents, so that more effective education can be achieved.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong





# WELCOME TO 'TINspiration'

**TIN** + **inspiration** = **TINspiration**

This is an anthology of students' writing of Tin Ka Ping Secondary School in the 2011-2012 school year.

This anthology is a witness of students' inspiration in writing originated from the warmth of students' second home: our school. A wide variety of ideas and views are shared among us.

Hope all of you enjoy reading it!

Ms Lau Wai Man  
Ms Lam Sau Ping

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