



TINspiration

2015-2016

Issue 7

Tin Ka Ping Secondary School

Message from the Principal



Among the relentless efforts by our English Department in creating an English-rich environment, the following two attempts in recent years have been rewarding particularly: (1) Exchange Student Programme and Intercultural Day (2) English Day and Inter-class Competitions.

Exchange Student Programme and Intercultural Day

Our exchange student this year, Andreas Lauffer from Holland, became one of our 3B students while taking some 54 lessons. He was active both in the classroom and after lessons, interacting freely with classmates, teachers as well as other schoolmates. Soon after he had settled in TKPSS, he was seen playing football with his schoolmates during the lunch hour. Throughout the school year, Andy exhibited passion for playing football and his skills further developed. Deeply moving was the farewell assembly to him when dozens of his football teammates trotted onto the stage after his speech and bade him farewell with loving words. Other 3B classmates echoed as the audience, feeling hard to say goodbye.

Over the past few years, our exchange students have been arranged by AFS, who also facilitated our Intercultural Day each year by inviting other exchange students to participate in the event. Apart from hosting open activities on the Day, visiting students went into different classrooms, introducing the culture of where they are from. Our students had a feast learning diverse cultures and encountered English in a new way. In fact the Intercultural Day has become an iconic activity in TKPSS, during which students enjoyed talking to foreign students and became more aware of different English accents. Teachers have affirmed the fruitful outcome.

English Day and Inter-class Competitions

Meanwhile, the English Days have gradually increased to eight days this year. Besides the English morning assembly and announcement on an English Day, students were encouraged to chat with teachers in English after lessons. Inter-class competitions were also held, including voice-dubbing competition, drama competition & scrabble competition, to motivate students to learn English. To my delight, students loved those competitions as you would find them not just practicing with teachers' facilitation but on their own initiative for achieving the best results. Their confidence in using English has been lifted thereby.

TINspiration is not presented as vividly as the mentioned English activities. Students' writing reveals vividly how they feel, think and act, which is an effective way to sharpen their English skills. I would like to take the chance to express my heartfelt thanks to the teachers and students who have strived hard for building an English campus. Finally, we cordially invite comments from the education community to enhance the writing skills of our students.

A Meaningful Day

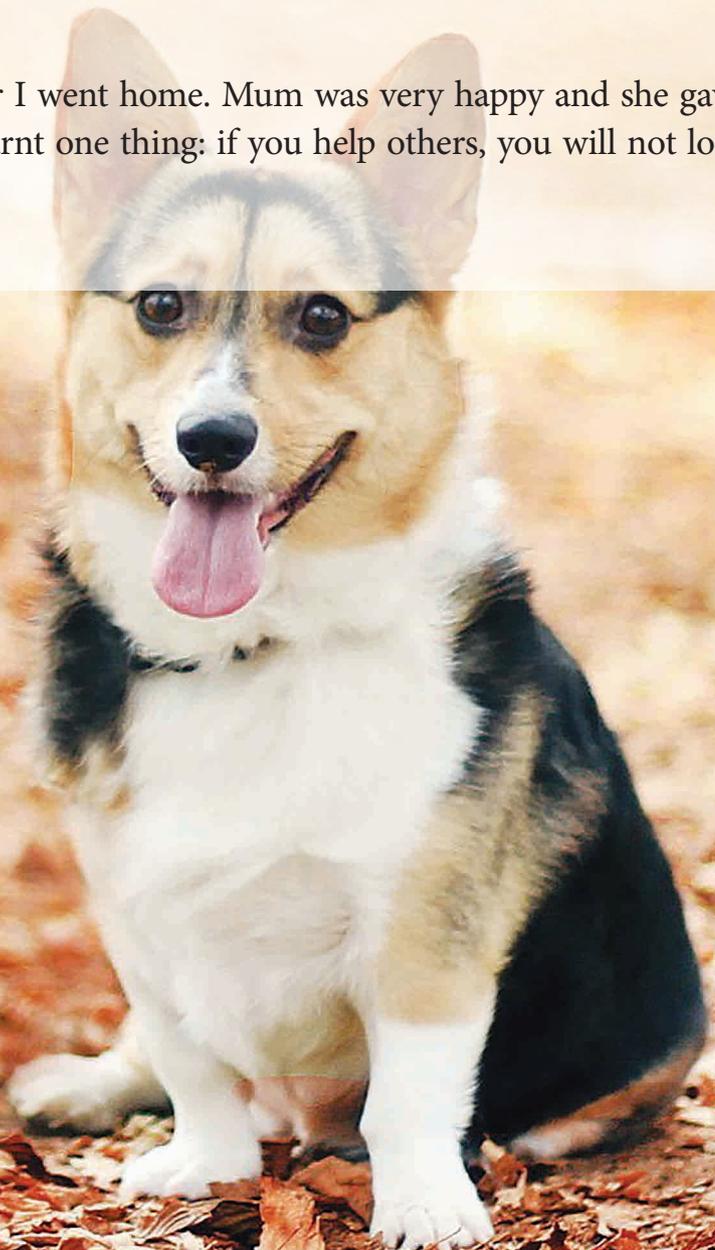
1A Ip Long Hin

During summer holiday, I finished all my homework and I felt bored at home. I thought my best friend, Peter, would be free so I called him. 'Hi, Peter! Do you have free time? Can you go to the park with me?' 'Sure! Chris. We can play football there. Let's go now!' said Peter excitedly.

When we were playing football in the park, we heard something crying in the bush. 'Let's have a look!' I said. We got into the bush. Then, we saw something moving in front of us. It was an injured puppy. 'How poor!' I thought. 'Let's take it to the vet.'

We went to the nearest vet. When I wanted to go inside, Peter said to me, 'It's very expensive to bring the puppy to see the vet. Do you have enough money?' 'Of course,' I said. 'We need to save this puppy.'

I told mum what happened after I went home. Mum was very happy and she gave me back the money. Today, I have learnt one thing: if you help others, you will not lose anything.



What a Bad Day!

1B Chan Tsz Yau

5th April, 2016

Sunny

Today was the worst worst worst day ever!

This morning I woke up at seven as usual. Then, I went downstairs to the bus stop. After about 20 minutes, the bus arrived, but it was a bit late. I was a little worried. The bus stopped slowly. I was anxious why it was so slow. Then, the bus driver got off and looked at the wheels. Then, he said to the passengers politely, 'I'm sorry but one of the wheels is broken, so please take another bus.' Then, I knew that if I waited for another bus, I was going to be late, so I took a taxi to school!

However, on my way to school, there was a car accident in the middle of the main road. So, there was a traffic jam. But it was already 7:55, there was only 5 minutes left before the bell rang, so I paid the taxi driver and ran all the way to school. I ran as fast as I could but still, I was late when I arrived.

When I went into the classroom, I walked silently to my seat and hoping that Miss Yeung wouldn't notice. But when I was almost there, she slammed on the table hard and yelled in a strong deep voice, 'Chris!' My hair stood up when she called my name. Then, I turned to her slowly, looking down. I peeped at her face and I noticed that she was smiling in a terribly cunning way and said, 'Go out of the classroom and stand outside until Miss Smith comes.' So, I walked towards the door and did as she told. I thought, 'You didn't even listen to my explanation!' But I knew that even if I explained to her she wouldn't let me go back to my seat. 'What a bad beginning for a new day!' I exclaimed to myself.

After lunch, it was P.E. lesson, my favourite lesson! In that lesson, we were going to play football, which was my favourite sport. We played for three rounds and the last round was the most important one. So, I cleaned the dust on my shirt and went on to the pitch. I imagined that there were thousands of people screaming my name in the game. Then, I heard my teammate, Sam, shouted, 'Watch out, Chris!' I then realized that Peter was running to me. I was shocked and my body was frozen. When I wanted to escape, it was too late. It was Peter's leg, not the football, that hit my knee and I heard cracking sounds from my bones. Then a strike of pain blew against my feet. My P.E. teacher, Mr. Fung, ran to me and sent me to the hospital.

Luckily, it wasn't really that serious, my knee was bruised and it was a bit painful. I learnt that I really should pay attention in the game but not daydream.

What a bad day!



A Voluntary Work in an Elderly Home

1C Hui Man Chun

Friday 25th February

Sunny

Dear diary,

What is your most unforgettable day? For me, it is today! Today is the first time for me to visit the elderly for a school activity. We needed to clean their home. I couldn't wait to see how their houses were like!



In the morning, I got on the school coach and went to the elderly home. On the bus, I was so nervous but excited because I had to clean an elderly's flat on my own! After I arrived, I said 'hello' to the old lady. Then, she smiled to me and invited me to come into her flat. Her name is Mary. She looked so energetic at the first sight! Then, I started cleaning her flat after we had introduced ourselves to each other.

First, I cleaned the window with a towel. Then, I helped her to wash the dishes. Lastly, I swept the floor. These chores were so difficult for me as I had never done any household chores at home. Luckily, her flat wasn't too dirty! I was tired after I had done all the work. Suddenly I smelled something sweet! Maybe I was too hungry!

The elderly took a cheese cake from the kitchen. Oh! My god! I finally got something to eat! She cut the cake into pieces and gave one to me. After that, we were eating the cake while we were chatting. In our chat, I shared with her my daily life and she also shared hers with me! I even knew she had a weird habit! After we ate all the cake, I said 'bye' to her as it was already 6:00 p.m. We took a photo.

It was an unforgettable day! I hope I can visit the elderly next time!

Cherish What We Have Now

1D Hou Wai Chun, Andrew

One late afternoon, Emily and I went hiking. However, we forgot to bring the map and a compass. We walked for three hours and couldn't find our way home. 'Oh! No! It's getting foggy and dark now. Where are we?' I cried. We probably got lost in a forest. However, I could barely see a house under the moonlight and there were lots of trees. The forest was very dark. We could hear the wind roaring and an owl's 'choo-choo' sound. There was some smell from the green leaves and grass. The smell was refreshing, so we opened our mouths and took a deep breathe. We could taste the moist of dew. I felt hungry, cold and exhausted. Emily was crying because she was in panic. 'Don't cry, Emily. Let's run up the hill and ask the house owner how we can get down the hill,' I said to Emily.

Emily and I ran up the hill and knocked on the door of the house. An old woman came out, 'It's so late now, why don't you go home and why are you here?' she asked. I answered, 'We got lost on the hill and we can't find our way home. What can we do?' The old woman answered, 'Just stay overnight here and I'll cook a meal for both of you.' I cried out loud and hugged the old woman because I was thankful for her kindness. We sat down at her dining room and waited for her cooking. At the same time, I found that the house was big and clean. Inside, it was tidy too. After 20 minutes, the dishes were ready. We could smell some food coming out from her kitchen. The dishes tasted good and we ate a lot. We felt satisfied for the dinner but we were tired. After that, we fell asleep at the old woman's bedroom.

The next day, I said goodbye to the old woman and went home. I felt thankful to the old woman because of her warm hospitality. I missed the old woman so much when I left her home.

Five months later, Emily and I missed her so much that we decided to visit her again. Unfortunately, we saw a grave on the hill and her house was not there anymore. 'Where is the house? Is that a grave?' I shouted. We felt curious and shocked about that and we decided to run up the hill.

Emily and I ran up the hill quickly and saw the graveyard. We saw a picture of the old woman embedded on the gravestone. After I read the wordings on the grave, we realized that she was burnt to death in a fire a month ago. I looked around and saw ashes, charred sticks and burnt furniture around her grave. My eyes were full of tears and felt sorrow about her sudden death. At last, we put some flowers in front of her grave, so as to express our gratitude and respects towards her and we went home with tears falling down like rain.

I was so sad about her death and I hoped she rested in peace. At the same time, I have learnt to "Cherish the present one", we should treasure what we have at the moment, such as our beloved parents, siblings, relatives and friends. Once you lost them, you won't see them again and you'll regret it forever.

A Mystery Story

2A Lee Tsz Chung

My best friend and I, Wilson, decided to go to the countryside to escape from boredom during the Easter holidays. We hiked along the side of a mountain, and ran high and low in search for a suitable campsite to stay for the night.

Wilson was a little bit chubby, therefore we spent some time on building our tent and preparing for food. As the sun slowly set, and the moon gradually rose, I could feel the hours passing by.

Wilson and I ran out of the tent just before going to sleep. I turned around and saw the tent was soaked in water. Raindrops poured down on our heads as we were looking for a safe, covered place. Wilson was wearing a T-shirt and I only had a sweater. Heat was also a huge problem to worry about too.

A lightning strike a tree nearby, which burned down to dust and ashes, even though the heavy rain trying to extinguish the fire. "Are we going to make it?" asked Wilson, breathing heavily. "I don't think we can," I answered, also panting because of the exhausting run. "But I will try to."

In the distance, we saw a large, British style condo. We used every last bit of our strength to knock on a door, and the owner came out. "Welcome!" He said as he opened the doors.

The condo was luxuriously decorated. I walked on a large red carpet, going from one side of the lobby to another. A chandelier was slowly swinging from side to side as I walked by. "I'll rest here. Sleep anywhere you like." said the beard old and fat owner of the house. We thanked him and chose the storage room for the night.

We first thought that we finally found peace and safety, but it was still raining heavily outside. We leaned on each other back to back, and we hardly even slept because of the noise outside.

"Chris?" shouted Wilson, as I was still sleeping. "Chris, wake up!" I slowly stood up, and rubbed my eyes. Upon opening my eyes, I found that I was in a completely different place. The layout was still the same as before, but it was overgrown by green vires and leaves. "We have to escape!" screamed Chris.

It was still dark and raining with lightning outside. I sprinted out of the storage room, finding out we were trapped in a root of overgrown weeds. "We are stranded." I said hopelessly.

I turned around and opened the window. I poked my head out of the window and tried to find a way out. I heard drops of water dropping from the roof of the storage room. Then, I heard the sound of a pipe breaking apart. Then, water started to pour out, quickly covering our feet.

"It may not be able to drown us," I said. "But it will freeze us to death." We found the pipe that was broken down a whole ago, and climbed down along it. "The structure of the pipe is still weak," I said. "You go first."

When Wilson was almost at the bottom, the pipe couldn't hold onto our weight and broke into pieces. "Ouch!" He screamed as water splashed on his face. "Help me down!" I shouted to Wilson, as the water slowly filled up to my knees. "I'm sorry, Chris," said Wilson. "What? Don't leave me here!" I shouted fiercely. "Don't leave me here!"

He ignored me and ran away at his top speed. I slammed my hand on the wall as I shouted at him. He never turned back.

"Hey kid!" I heard a voice as I felt a sense of hope. I heard the sound of a rumbling motor. The door was broken down by a chainsaw, wielded by the owner. "Let's get out of here!" he said. However, I was still shocked about why Wilson left me. I treated him as my best friend.

"I will have my revenge..." I mumbled. "You will regret for what you did." I rang on his doorbell as I pulled out a kitchen knife from my backpack...

Goodbye Peter!

2B Liu Wing Chung

It's time for Peter to leave. I felt upset as my best friend will no longer be here with me.

A month ago, an exchange student called Peter came to my home. He was wearing his sports uniform and carrying a basketball with him at that time. He said hello to me immediately but I responded to him only after a while. 'Hi! My name is Peter. My hobby is playing basketball and going to country parks since I was born in England. How about you?' For my first impression, I found that he is an outgoing person. 'I love reading books.' I answered with no facial expression. 'Come on, books are boring! Sports are more fun!' he answered. I found that I couldn't communicate with him! I even thought that although he resembled a grown man, he had the mind of a little child during the lesson. I hated him.

The next week, we went to a school picnic at Sai Kung Country Park. The teacher said that we should follow the instructions carefully, otherwise we could get lost. I thought I was so smart and I walked into the big grassland, full of majestic trees. After a while, I found that I was lost! I didn't know where I was! Where was I? I was so frightened that I didn't know what to do! Would I die here?

After a few minutes, I heard someone behind me. 'Hey! Is anyone here? I am looking for a lost classmate! If you can hear me, please answer! I am Peter!' 'Peter! I am here!' I responded. After a while, he saw me. 'Jason! You are here! Ah.... Why are you here?' 'I...I...I was so frightened!' I cried. 'Don't worry! I know the way back. I'm used to being in the nature as I always go hiking, so stay calm', he said encouragingly. After an hour, we got back to the campsite. 'Thanks for your help!' I said to him. 'Can we be friends?' 'Sure!' he answered with a kind smile.

I completely changed my opinion of him. I always thought that he was just an active person with a stupid brain. But he just saved my life! I was moved by his sincere and caring heart. I thought I could learn from him and we could be friends. After this incident, I learnt a valuable lesson: true friendship is established when crisis comes and you overcome it with one another. The most treasurable friendship can never be lost, even if they are in different places.

Classroom Smarty!

2C Chow Chi Ho

Don't hesitate? Buy one for school now!

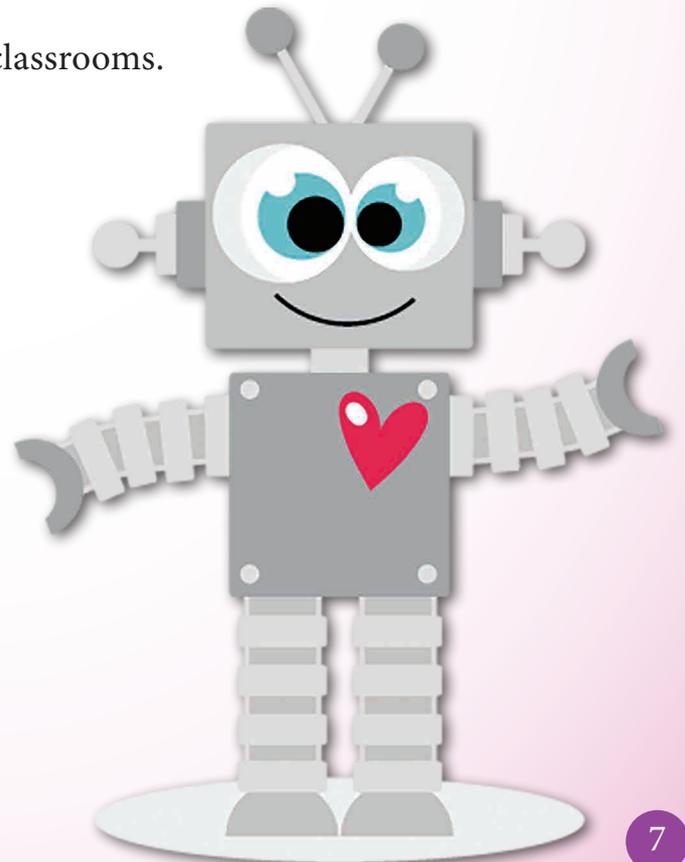
As technology rapidly advances, there are many new robots being invented every day. But this robot is different. It can help with your school life!

What can Classroom SmartyI do? Lots of things! Remember that last time you needed to leave your seat to throw rubbish out during the lesson. Isn't it distracting? Don't worry! Classroom SmartyI will open his 'tummy' like a walking rubbish bin. It can also detect if there are any rubbish on the floor. It will pick up the rubbish and put them inside his 'tummy'. If its 'tummy' is full, it will put all the rubbish into the rubbish bag and throw that away as well. Isn't that convenient?

Second, do you think that turning on and off the electric appliances in the classroom is annoying? If yes, then Classroom SmartyI can solve your problems. It would turn on or off the fan, air-conditioners, lights and projector whenever you like. Also, it could help pull the projector screen down for teachers as they may not be tall enough. This function is useful, isn't it?

So why don't you buy one for your school? The useful functions and cool appearance are the reasons why you need to buy one for your school!

Classroom SmartyI: A smart choice for classrooms.



Let's solve a mystery!

2D Ho Tin Yan

Dear John,

Hi! How are you getting on? My life is great in Hong Kong. Everything is great here. You cannot imagine how excited I was when I received your letter. I'm very curious to hear about your mysterious experience. It is very unbelievable! Also, I'm glad to help you solve the mystery too.



Okay! Let's talk about how I solved the mystery! I think I am so clever and smart. Guess why? I only needed half a day to solve the whole case. See how efficient I am! First, I went to the school office to find which teacher was on duty on the second floor on Parents' Night last year. Then I found that it was Ms Smith. You are right! It was Ms Smith, the strictest teacher in our school. It was terrible to find her on my own. However, in order to help you, I did it anyways with fear and trepidation. So, you should be thankful to me! Hearing Ms Smith's heavy footsteps in the room, I felt extremely worried. Then I told Ms Smith your situation and asked her for some clues. Then Ms Smith told me an important clue that made it worth facing her! It was that a

boy was playing music with his MP3 player in the music room on that night. Listening to the music, the boy felt very relaxed. The boy would not have been discovered originally because he was very careful. Then I went to ask that same boy who played the music because I still did not have all the details of this mystery. The boy explained that while he was listening to his music, he heard someone come near the music room. Afraid of being caught by teachers, he immediately turned off the music hid under a table. Then when you left, he played the music again. But he got unlucky because Ms Smith was the one who came in next. Since Ms Smith is so omniscient, she immediately noticed him even though he was hiding under a table. You can guess what consequences he got. Ms Smith scolded him angrily. I could still feel that he hasn't fully recovered from the punishment. Also, you may ask why the lights turned off suddenly. Don't be silly! It was not a ghost. There was a short in the circuit so the lights temporarily turned off.

After listening to what I have said, I'm sure that you will not be scared about that anymore and you can finally escape from that nightmare. Actually, I think you should be braver and keep calm next time. I am honored to help you to solve this case. Just ask me for help when you have a problem again! I've got to go now. Bye for now! Drop me a few lines when you've got time.

Yours,
Chris

An unforgettable competition

3A Chiu Hiu Fung

Dear Diary,

Today is the BEST DAY EVER! The school inter-class Singing Contest was held. The atmosphere was like in a fiesta. Ya, this makes me feel exhilarated till now. I have led my class to the triumph, the championship! I was conquered by this transcendent satisfaction. I will NEVER forget today's competition! (there was something I could do better though...)

As a matter of fact, I had planned every single part of the singing part before we started practising. Apart from planning the action and gimmick of singing, I thought that we should have a big surprise at the end of our performance. With this kind of surprise, no one failed in the past, neither did I. I wanted to stand out from the crowd to give everyone an image that 'I am very outstanding'. (this is my dream!)

In the contest, well, before our surprising performance, we received another 'surprise'. All our materials were lost. That's a TREMENDOUSLY TERRIFYING news to us. We lost our banner which were prepared to use as a surprise at the end of our performance to show the word 'Merry Christmas' and then sang another song.

Without a shadow of doubt, time still passed away. When I was pretending to make another surprise, the teacher reminded me to go on the stage. I was having a panic attack! (Literally, cause my classmates forced me to 'rescue' this situation.) I looked at the stage. The audience was in silence. They were waiting for us and I was going to disappoint them. I felt butterflies in my stomach. However, I couldn't waste the festive atmosphere which gave us a chance to perform. There was no alternative but to perform.

Fortunately, (Thank God...) although we didn't perform well, we still got a round of applause. Well, at least I did my best to perform and plan. The performance should be magnificent! I thought we couldn't get the championship. I was lucky that I didn't have such insight. We got the championship! (Yes, we were still GOOD!)

Well, there were much more things for me to think about except the memory. I should keep the banner safe. I shouldn't lose it. If I didn't get the championship, this would be what I deserve: I must be more careful in order not to disappoint anyone again! (Well, I'm so into today's event actually!)

Slimming Culture in Hong Kong

Dear Editor,

3B Lee Sheung Yi

I am writing to express my opinion and concern about the slimming culture in Hong Kong. There's no doubt that we are storing up a host of health and social problems for the future if we do not manage to combat this epidemic issue.

To begin with, let's define what the phenomenon of slimming culture in Hong Kong is. Local youngsters tend to view how they look as the key to confidence and happiness. They think that having a slim body can easily attract others' eyes. In order to become slim, they even risk their health like forcing themselves to eat much less than they need. It's indeed unwise and should be halted as soon as possible.



So why do people care about their appearance so much? First of all, slimming companies bombard us with stories of how their weight losing regimen transforms a fat and unhappy woman into a charming beauty. Though it's so fake, people still believe in it. They think that their life will become as wonderful as the one who is in the advertisement of the company. The slimming companies imbue with distorted messages to people. Thus, people think that slimness is beauty and try a variety of regimen to lose weight.

Secondly, we can see that people's clothing, especially those of the girls, becomes more fashionable on the street. When some fat people see this situation, they will feel self-conscious that they cannot carry those clothes because of having too much body fat. Then, they start to lose weight in order to put on beautiful clothes.

Slimming culture also constitutes serious health and social problems. Concerning the health issue, people keep eating very little so that the energy intake is less than energy needs. These results in excessive weight loss and the person may become not only thin but also weak. Under-eating may bring about the disease of anorexia. Patients with anorexia have a distorted body image! So why do people still love to limit the food portion? Please halt to hurt your body!

Concerning the social effect, being fat makes people feel self-conscious about their bodies. This has affected their social life. For example, they would avoid going to the swimming pools and beaches because wearing swimsuit may make their fat bodies stand out. They are afraid of that their friends will laugh at them. This reduces the social circle of fat people.

To solve these problems of slimming culture, the government should take the responsibility to correct the distorted logic of people in Hong Kong. 'Beauty is skin deep.' No matter whether you are thin or fat, it cannot define whether you are beautiful or not. Beauty is not concerned with appearance but the personality of a person. Therefore, don't mind the way you look, just show your inner beauty!

To us, we should not judge somebody by appearances. We should be kind to everyone and try to get close to some self-conscious people. Maybe, you will find that they are nice and friendly. Just take action!

In conclusion, the slimming culture in Hong Kong should be halted as soon as possible. It may lead a host of negative effects to your health and social circle. Just stop keeping slim! There's no real benefits to you indeed!

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

The Best Gift

3C Li Chi Ying

In 21st century, 2050, there was a very lonely girl called Rose. She had no friends and no family. She had never got a Christmas present. This Christmas, she really wanted to have one Christmas gift, either some food or some toys. However, she thought this 'dream' would never come true. She told that wish to the Christmas tree and ran away. However, she didn't know that it was a magic Christmas tree.

On the Christmas Day, Rose walked alone in the street. She saw someone having Christmas party. Someone got a big gift and was laughing happily while she was just walking alone and feeling cold. Rose was very upset. Suddenly an old man who was in red clothes walked straight to her, giving her a big box and said, 'Oh, my poor girl, I am the Santa Clause from the magic Christmas tree. As you wished, you could have a Christmas gift! Merry Christmas! My little girl! Goodbye!

'Oh my god! The Christmas tree works! Thank you and merry Christmas!' Rose was very surprised about the box. When she opened it, a boy jumped out. Rose was very scared. However, the boy said, 'Don't worry Rose! I am Tim. I will be your friend forever. It is your Christmas gift. Do you like it?' 'Yes! Yes! Of course!' Rose replied happily.

After that day Rose and Tim became very good friends. They did everything together. Unfortunately, one day when Rose wanted to shake hands with Tim, she pulled his hand out. She saw electrical circuits and computer chips in his hand!

'What's wrong?' Rose asked, 'Are you a monster or anything else? Are you going to kill me?' Tim answered that he was a robot. He was not going to hurt Rose. He would be the best friend of Rose forever and told her not to worry. Rose's eyes filled with tears. She was so touched. She would not be alone anymore. And of course, this was the first and the best gift she had received. At last, they lived happily until they died.

Relationship in a World of High Technology

3D Phillips Tianci David

Once upon a time, there was a science professor named Chris Bosh. He was interested in making time travel realistic. He worked and worked for decades, and in his late 70s, he finally succeeded and invented a time machine. His granddaughter wanted to try it out, so she jumped into it and traveled to the year 2050 without her grandfather's permission.

When she got there, she found that time machines were very popular at that time and everyone was praising her grandfather. Everything around there was extremely advanced and "high-tech". She didn't want to leave. She was so excited to be in the future, she was running around everywhere like a puppy.

She was so satisfied with the environment there. She wanted to live in that era. Soon, she got herself an ID card and started to live there just like everyone else. She found a school. She found a home. She was happy.

After about half a year, she fell in love with a boy in her class and the boy liked her as well. One day, the boy asked Jenny out for dinner, and Jenny was happy to accept. Soon, they started dating.

They were a few months into their relationship, and they were out watching a movie together as they always did. The boy started to have some "squeaky" sounds out of his arm. And then suddenly, his arm cracked open and tons of wires, electrical circuits and computer chips fell out of his arm. Jenny was shocked to discover that he was a robot. She ran away as fast as she could like a horse running away from a lion. She felt very afraid. She wondered if everyone in the era was a robot. The more she thought, the more afraid she was. She wanted to go back to her own era!

She went to a time travel terminus, got on a time machine and went back to her own era. She tried to find her grandfather but she couldn't. She found her parents and finally found what she really wanted – family and love. From then on, she didn't want much "high-tech" things and worked more to get what she really wanted.

A dinner with my idol

Dear Diary,

4A Yeung Hei

I was excited that I won a chance of dining with my favourite Korean pop group, B1A4! I have never thought of dining with my idols! I was nervous about the appointment! As I was really excited about the dining, I prepared a lot. I bought a set of new clothes for the dinner. Since I was the leader of B1A4 Fan Club, I was the representative and was given a chance to join the dinner. I made a banner and was ready to go to the dinner.



Their agency told me that I should be at the dining venue at 7:30 pm. I waited outside the restaurant at 1:30 p.m.! That's crazy! At first, I thought I was the earliest one, but when I arrived, there had been a lot of other fans waiting outside. I was shocked!

When it was about the time, a limousine arrived, and four men got off the car. That's B1A4! I cheered and screamed with other fans! There were four more boys and girls who also got the chance to meet B1A4. They all looked excited! Jinyoung, the leader of B1A4 was charming! He attracted the fans outside. The other three of them also said 'hi' to us! I was pleased.

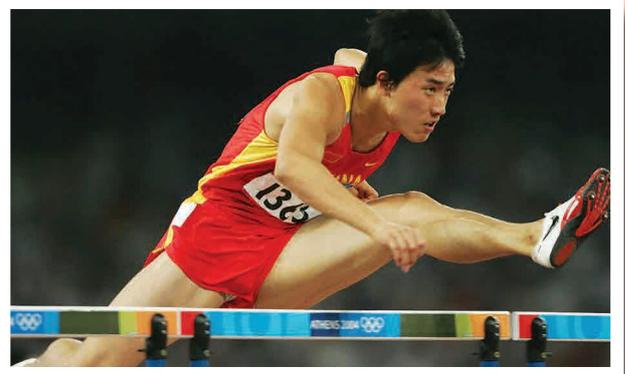
The dinner started. A lot of dishes were served on the table. Sandeal, the lead singer of B1A4 said something in Korean. We didn't understand at all because we didn't know Korean! Luckily, there was a translator. Then, we understood that he told us to eat! The dishes were good-looking and delicious! As this restaurant was of Korean style, we tried a lot of traditional food. I ate a lot. When I was going to drink my can of coke, I dropped it carelessly. It splashed and made the table dirty. I immediately cleaned the table in a helter-skelter manner. I was embarrassed! B1A4 laughed and I became stammered! Then, we talked a lot about their life as idols! I found that they needed to work very hard. Practicing singing and dancing are the main part of their schedule. I really appreciate them.

The dinner ended at last. I enjoyed the dinner very much as I could get very close to B1A4 and I could learn what the life of my idols is like.

Inspiring from the “triple crown”

4B Ng Wai Yan

I guess many of you remember the school assembly last month. Some of you have been there for an autograph! But besides the autograph, I guess you have got more. As an athlete myself, I have learnt a lot. Let me talk about what I have learnt from the assembly.



To begin with, Liu Xiang, the hurdler who is renowned all around the world, had brought an echo in our school last month with an encouraging talk. He mentioned his sporting career which had brought him to the headlines as well as the unforgettable hamstring injury in 2008 Beijing Olympics. The intolerable pain intensified in warming-up exercise forced him to pull off from the race. He once tried to overcome that and was eager to continue the competition. He failed but successfully portrayed a never-say-die attitude worthwhile for us to learn from. He even pledged to come back to the field. The perseverance might be the reason why he became a miracle in the 110 meter hurdles. Undoubtedly, I have been inspired a lot from this. He is definitely a hero, isn't he?

Besides, I have also learnt from his modesty. He is the only male athlete in mankind who had been crowned the “triple crown”. Holding the world records, he still lives a low-profile life. After hitting the international headlines, he gained lots of exposures in media but such achievements have neither changed him to an arrogant nor a complacent king. Look, those autographs in your hands are the evidence of his easy-going personality. Although he is a famous celebrity, he asked whether we wanted to take a memorable photo with him. He had never glorified himself. I am sure his modesty had also paved the way for his success and shot him to fame. Once he recalled the memories of the training period, he shed the graceful tears and gave thanks to every single supporter, especially his coach and his family. That touching time in the talk also encouraged me a lot.

Liu's talk was certainly the best inspiration to me, ever. That was really a great lesson for everyone.

TSA Controversy

4C Sin Hong Ying

Recently, Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) has stirred up controversy in the society because of the complaint of the parents of the primary school students. They thought TSA had totally affected their children's life as their children were overwhelmed by the drills and mountains of homework.

Schools prepared unbelievably huge amounts of homework for the students who will sit for TSA. Seeing their children collapsed under pressure, parents suggested that TSA should be cancelled.

How could we deal with this situation? Undoubtedly, schools played the most important role. TSA is only an exam to test the ability of students but the schools seemed too concerned about the results as it may affect the number of students enrolled in the school. If the school could be less concerned about the results and reduce the amounts of exercise, I'm sure the dispute could be settled.

On top of that, the government should reckon with this situation. Discussing whether the Education Bureau should reduce the difficulty of TSA or not is a stopgap measure only. The most important thing is to make sure that schools would not prepare many practices for students. If the government is unable to stop the schools, the cancellation of TSA is inevitable.



How to manage examination stress and anxiety

4D Chan Kit Wing

It's important to have a healthy attitude in dealing with examination stress and anxiety. Examinations are grueling and exhausting, which put students under tremendous stress and depression. What should we do to manage them? Why do examinations give us stress?

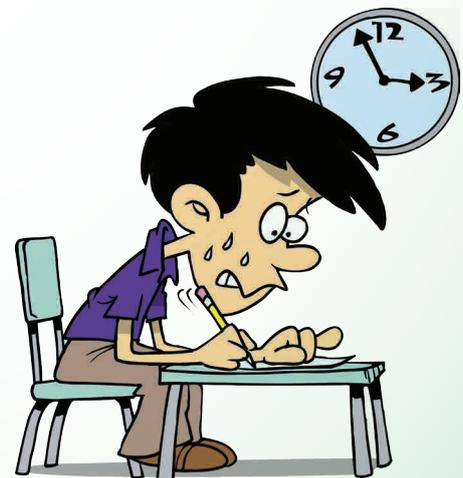
Examinations put students under pressure since we are bombarded with a lot of cramming papers and we have to revise what we have learnt within a short period of time. It would be a great idea to revise every day, rather than just do it a week before the examination. If we revise tons of things in a long period step by step, we will discover that it is easier to remember rather than cramming everything in a short period of time. We need to understand the things we learn, not just learn by rote without using them. We need to be wise, not to act as a computer to remember everything.

In addition, we need to relax but also to ace in examinations. Being stressed will lead to bad performance. Doing exercise is a way to deal with stress. We should do exercise every week so as to refresh our minds. A cheering spirit and vivacity can help to manage stress and anxiety and thus expel the negative minds. People who often think negatively work inefficiently. On the other hand, cheerful people work efficiently. Why? It's because when you think that you are unable to do something, your heart gives yourself limitations. However, if you think positively, you have faith in yourself. You will have robust confidence in facing difficulties.

The importance of healthy attitude and interest outweighs the grades they've got. Revision is a must, but not too much. Interesting extra-curricular activities can eliminate the stress built up by studying.

Moreover, if you are not sure whether you have the ability to manage your time for studies and extra-curricular activities, you should just participate in one, no more than three. As I have mentioned, extra-curricular activities mitigate stress, but over-participating can cause stress as studies do.

Follow your heart. While others are telling you to live a life and join more activities, you should think what you want to do. Don't depend too much on others' advice. It's your life. You should make your own choice.



A Role Model for Teenagers

5A Lee Wing Yan

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my view on which celebrity should be nominated 'the Person of the Year' to serve as a role model for teenagers. While some believe a person with fame is of paramount importance, others may believe the inspiration and faith that a person has is what matters most. For me, it is undoubtedly the latter. Therefore, the role model I suggest is Mr. So Wa Wai. The reasons are chiefly as follows:



To commence with, Mr. So is very inspiring to have overcome the biggest obstacle in his life – being born with jaundice. This disease affected both his hearing and his limbs, and hence the reason why he competed in the T36 classification for athletes with cerebral palsy. But did he give up? No. He continuously pursued his dream of being an athlete. Without doubt he succeeded. 'How did he do that?' You may ask. As the saying goes 'Where there's a will, there's a way.' Never will a person fail to do something if he has the courage to take the first step. 'You should always take the first step. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.' It is a famous quote by Martin Luther King. Mr. So did not have the chance to have a perfect body, nor the chance to walk faster than any of us. However, he could run. In his first ever Paralympic appearance in 1996, he won the gold medal as part of the men's 4X100m relay team.

Additionally, his determination and perseverance made him a successful person without a doubt. He joined every Paralympic Games from 1996 to 2008. Not everything worked out as planned for him. But what did he do? He kept training and practicing. Some may think pursuing a dream is as easy as counting to three, but without the faith and will, there are no free lunches. He might fall a million times, but he would grab each opportunity to improve himself and stood up a billion times.

Last but not least, Mr. So has a positive attitude towards his obstacles. Being a celebrity needs a great deal of ability to handle the negativity from others. The hardship isn't physical, but psychological. People who have the heart of forgiveness like Mr. So will succeed. He has endured how other people look at him. 'Being discriminated against is always a hard feeling, but I will still strive for what I love.' It is really thought-provoking that he has such inspiration and positivity!

From what has been discussed above, I put forward the idea that So Wa Wai is the best choice for 'the Person of the Year'.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

Our Passion Paves the Way to Succeed

5B Ho Chin Tong

Nowadays, academic results are of the utmost importance in the Hong Kong education system. Without flying colours in the Diploma of Secondary Education, we cannot study in our interested major at university. Without acceptable academic results, we cannot land the high-income jobs. However, do academic results really stand for everything in our life? Does our career totally depend on our results?

Definitely not. Under no circumstances should our academic results be the sole determiner of our life. How our future pans out when we join the workforce should instead depend on our job performance and attitude. Take Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba as an example. He did not have stellar results and he only received 1 mark in Mathematics in the college entrance examination in China. Nevertheless, he is undeniably a prime example of how to become successful. In fact, the key to success is our passion. Take the IOAs student Chow Shing-yuk as an example. He also attributes his success to his passion. There is no doubt that passion is indispensable. However, are our results really meaningless?

Absolutely not. Without appropriate results, we cannot study the university subjects that we like, not to mention the job we are passionate about. Never can passion alone lead us to success. Knowledge is of crucial importance. Without the support of knowledge, our passion means nothing. Only when we combine passion and knowledge can we pave the way for our success.

As a conclusion, under no circumstances should passion or knowledge be neglected. Not only should we study hard, but we should also seize every opportunity in order to discover our true passion.



The Person of the Year – Jeremy Lin

5C Tam Nga Man Ginny

Dear Editor,

Recently, an article in the Young Post suggested that a celebrity should be nominated for the Person of the Year to serve as a role model for teenagers. In my opinion, Jeremy Lin, who is a basketball player, would absolutely suit this nomination. Not only is he a dedicated player, he is someone with unbounded determination; and there's no reason for not choosing him.



Jeremy Lin is unequivocally an iconic figure of perseverance and bravery. Jeremy Lin is an Asian-American, graduating from Harvard with a dream of entering into the National Basketball Association. Despite the fact he worked so hard to be a NBA player, he didn't succeed at first. His perseverance and diligence paid off though. In 2011, the Golden State Warriors, a California-based NBA team, signed him on a party guaranteed contract and his name hit the headlines all around the world as a result.

It's crystal clear that Jeremy Lin has a huge influence on youngsters. Lin is the first player ever of Chinese-Taiwanese descent to make it in the NBA. Lin has worked so hard to get this far and he refused to give up even when no NBA team would sign him in 2010. Thanks to his determined attitude, he finally reaped the fruits of success when he became a starter for the New York Knicks, and thus securing his contract. Nowadays, teenagers lack the determination that Lin possesses, and instead remain indecisive and undetermined. Having Lin as the Person of the Year can undoubtedly inspire teenagers to find their goals and to pursue it with determination. Like what Lin has always said, 'Our own determination can get us so far.'

Before all the success, Lin had to undergo numerous setbacks and challenges, which have made him who he is today. Unlike many teenagers, Lin has a never-say-die attitude. Lin always reminded himself, 'It always seems impossible until it's done.' Lin is committed and passionate in playing basketball, even while he was continually rejected by various NBA team at first. Eventually, he did it. As a fine example to the youngsters, teenagers should learn to be perseverant. So many teenagers lack this diligence and perseverance; they fail to realize the fact that there are no free lunches in the world and you have to make an effort if you want to succeed. Choosing Jeremy Lin as the Person of the year can definitely inspire teenagers to have an unwavering belief in the benefit of hard work or they won't be successful.

Apart from Lin's perseverance and dedication, Lin's success also conveys another message. Many teenagers in Hong Kong lack a holistic and all-rounded development, only focusing on academic results as they believe that focusing on other aspects would ruin their future prospects. From Lin, we can see that focusing on sports didn't damage his career. Lin has shown that you can strike a balance between sports and studies, as he pursued his basketball career while studying at Harvard.

To conclude, Jeremy Lin is a man of dedication, perseverance and diligence. I believe that Jeremy Lin can surely be an inspiration for Hong Kong teenagers in pursuit of setting unshakable goals and fulfilling their dreams with tenacity.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

Person of the Year

5D Kwok Sheung Kwun

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my view about the nomination on the Person of the Year to serve as a role model for youngsters. All of us know that there are lots of well-known celebrities around the world. Undeniably, many of them are impressive and groundbreaking by making a host of contributions and achievements towards the public.

Recently, one of the legend heroines in Hong Kong who aged 102 passed away. This admirable heroine – Elsie Tu was a former lawmaker, social activist and anti-corruption campaigner during the British-colonial period. Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying and Legco Chairperson Jasper Tsang praised and dubbed Tu as the ‘Inspirable Fighter for Justice’. Therefore, I would like to nominate Elsie Tu as the Person of the Year. She was absolutely suitable to be the role model of youths.

Nowadays, teenagers are always tired in achieving their goals and dreams. However, never did Elsie say exhausted and halt to helping the needy in Hong Kong. In the past 64 years, she had done a bunch of contributions towards the public. For instance, Tu became the lawmaker in Legco and in Provisional Legislative Council from 1988 to 1998. Not to mention she had done so much effort in voicing the social needs in the Legco meeting, she was brave to point out the controversial issue – The autonomy of Hong Kong. Besides, she had founded Mu Kuang English School for poor Chinese children in 1954. This action had aroused the public with lots of applause and support. It had changed the faith and the life of the children, who lived in poverty. From the above contributions, she had shown her beloved heart and generosity. The lawmaker wasn’t afraid of the opposition voice from the merchants. On the other hand Elsie was willing to stand up and strike for rights for the masses. This determination spirit from Elsie was totally admired and learnt by the teenagers.

In 2013, the 102-year-old had won the prize of ‘Top 10 of The Most Motivate People in Hong Kong’ from ATV. From then on, the popularity of Tu aroused after a few days. The rise of fame from Elsie didn’t shake her humble heart. Instead, Tu kept on her charity work and showed the public with her ‘Never-give-up’ spirit’. Not only did she keep in doing voluntary work, she was also concerned about the development of teenagers in Hong Kong. Tu’s unwavering insistence towards education and schooling for Hong Kong Youngsters was never halted. She persevered to enhance the standard and the environment of Mu Kuang English School progressively. Therefore, the tributes and advocacy from the press and public has grown intently day by day. Elsie ‘Never-give-up’ spirit and ‘can-do’ attitude are the most insufficient attitude among the teenagers. This is one of the utmost important reasons for choosing the educationalist Elsie Tu as the Person of The Year.



In the current society, young people from post-90s generation are only glued to electronic gadgets. The materialized world has provided a bundle of temptations and resources for them. But the drawback is that they lack bravery to face adversities and deal with tremendous setbacks from daily life.

From Elsie Tu, the most impressive experience from her legend life was the pioneering work on the anti-corruption campaign in 1970's Hong Kong. Since the vibe of corruption between the government officials and merchants were freaky serious during the 1970s, the governor didn't have the power to cease the corruption. To halt this problem, Elise decided to promote anti-corruption campaign arousing the city through education. This paved the way for the colonial government to set up the Independent Commission Against Corruption in 1974. During the campaign, the governor Myrray Macle hose appreciated Tu as 'The Rarest Diamond' of Hong Kong. Under no circumstances should government officials graft merchants for Bribery crimes. The Downtrodden oppositions and cruel speech from the merchants didn't defeat her persisted mind in promoting anti-corruption actions. At last, the rampant corruption was being pressed under the converted effort from the government and the pivotal heroine – Elise. From this cherish experience, Tu's righteousness and perseverance should be deeply rooted in the past-90's generation's mind.

'Lend a hand to the people who are in need.' Elsie always hoped that every youngster can help the others without any excuse. Elsie really demonstrated an admirable role model for everyone. It is without a doubt that Elsie TU is the most suitable one to be nominated as the Person of the Year. Through her contributions, teenagers can truly understand the significance of positive values. Elsie's life is really inspiring to every youth. They can be alert and being cultivated through learning moral values from this outstanding heroine. I am sure that the next generation will become decent and mature undoubtedly through the lessons and wisdom learnt from Elsie. The more we learnt, the more we become mature. The people who are being crowned prize winner for the Person of the Year must be Elsie Tu without hesitation.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

It's time to change the PE syllabus!

6A Wong Hiu Shun

Dear Ms Chan,

It has recently brought to my attention that some of my classmates are not satisfied with physical education lessons, saying that the lessons are not interesting. As the chairperson of the Class Association, I would like to explain why they are unhappy about attending PE lessons and therefore propose two activities that can be introduced in future PE lessons in order to solve this problem.



First and foremost, it should be noted that the sporting equipment in our school is insufficient and dull. We could only enjoy a limited variety of ball games due to this limitation, such as basketball, football, and badminton, which we have already tried in primary school. It may be acceptable for those who are specialized in certain sports as they are enthusiastic in playing these games. However, those students who do not have a special aptitude in sports may prefer trying something new. In light of this, the lack of multifarious sporting equipment may account for this phenomenon.

In addition to the limited resources, the contents of PE lessons may also be a contributory factor to explain the students' disappointment. To put it more clearly, some students who do not excel in sports may feel reluctant towards the fitness tests given by teachers. Doing sit-up, sit and reach and endurance exercise can be a piece of cake for the sporting genius but a nightmare for some students. With this in mind, it is clear that not all students would be motivated in PE lessons.

Regarding the above reasons, I would like to suggest two ways to improve the current situation. Firstly, our school may seek sponsorships to enhance the variety of sporting equipment. This method would be feasible as the company can also improve its image and boost its income consequently. Secondly, it would be beneficial if our PE teachers could allow more freedom for students to choose what to do in PE lessons. For instance, students may have the opportunity to choose whether to undergo the fitness test or not, in consideration to their ability. As a result, students can choose to play the sports they like and this may boost their enthusiasm for PE lessons.

To conclude, it is necessary for the school to improve this situation in a bid to render students a fruitful school life. I sincerely hope that you could take my suggestions into account.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Wong

Say no to a ticking time bomb – depression

6B Leung Wing Ki

Intolerable pressure, fluctuated emotions, suicidal tendencies – all these are the feelings of people who fall victim to depression. To be honest, one of my friends was a victim of depression too. Who is she? This is not important. What matters most are how she overcame it and what you can learn from her story. So read on.

My friend is a new immigrant from mainland China. All of you should know that Hong Kong nowadays is full of anti-mainlander activities – pointing fingers at them and complaining that they grab all our resources. That is why my innocent friend was afraid of being discriminated against by her schoolmates just because she comes from the mainland. After that, she isolated herself from everybody around her, thinking that she would not be criticized when no one was around her and she kept all her information in secrecy. She did not even ask help from her teachers and family. On one hand, she thought that Hong Kong teachers were holding same discriminatory opinions towards her; on the other hand, she wanted to be independent, not adding burdens to her family. Worse still, she was suffering from stomachache, insomnia and losing weight. At that moment, she knew that there was no solution but seeking help from doctors, dealing with these problems.

At last, after understanding the situation of my friend, the doctors offered two suggestions. There are only two suggestions but these two suggestions are enough for her to overcome her depression.

The first one is thinking positive. It is obvious that the culprit of depression of my friend is herself. Since she was too pessimistic, even though her schoolmates not yet discriminated her, she isolated herself from the others. Don't you think that it is so strange? However, some of you are in the same boat as her. Have you ever been afraid of your academic results before you sit the examination? Or have you been nervous about disappointing your parents before you show them your results? You later on will understand that some of the difficulties are actually nothing and sometimes you are exerting undue pressure on yourself. So, why don't we just think positive and do not make the negative conclusion before you give it a try? If you always think positive, depression will stand much chance of leaving you.

Besides thinking positive, closely important is that you must talk to your families or teachers if you are really depressed. My friend and all of us are just teenagers. How can we stress ourselves to deal with all the difficulties? Most of the time, pieces of advice from adults are the key to overcoming adversities. For instance, my friend finally asked help from her class teacher and she found that her class teacher was glad to help her, helping her to build up her peer relationship in the class. This proves that asking help from adults is not as 'dependent' as it might be perceived. Not all adults can overcome the adversities themselves, let alone teenagers. Therefore, if you do need help from the others, just seek it. They will understand you and give you a helping hand.

Apart from the two suggestions mentioned above, in no way should we neglect the most important solution, which is also where these two suggestions come from – see the doctor if you think that you are likely falling victim to depression. Some people are unwilling to admit that they are suffering from mental problems. In my point of view, I do not see any difference between fever and mental problems – they are both sicknesses. Only if we see the doctor can we undergo treatment to become healthy again. Therefore, do not hesitate to ask for help from doctors when you are suffering from depression.

My friend now is totally recovered after she dealt with her depression using these methods. We have to bear in mind that we cannot emphasize too much the importance of our mental health. It is my earnest hope that all of you can get rid of depression and enjoy your life.

Give Children a Pressure-free Childhood

6C Fung Fei

Dear Editor,

So competitive is Hong Kong that everyone is competing since they were born. As a result, parents send their children to tutorial schools and classes in the hope of gaining an edge. However, parents only drive their children up the wall. I am, therefore, writing to express my serious concern over the current twisted education system.

Indeed, Hong Kong's education system is notorious for requiring students to learn by rote. Students are crammed with textbook knowledge only. The school curriculum is examination-oriented, bringing tremendous pressure to students. Unfortunately, things are getting worse nowadays. Even toddlers have to attend tutorial classes so as to handle admission interviews for kindergartens and primary schools, which deprive youngsters of their childhood and destroy their innocence. The classroom seems to be a battlefield but never a place for diversified learning. The creativity of students is stifled by education system.

In fact, students should be trained as intelligent all-round persons whose potential can be brought out to the full. Under no circumstances should they be trained as a learning robot. Parents and Education Bureau should take action in order to give children a pressure-free childhood.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong



A Letter of Complaint

6D Leung Tsz Ching

Dear Mr. Lee,

Recently, some customers had complained about unprofessional services of our staff. I am writing to inform you of a recent complaint and suggest three possible actions in order to deal with this complaint.

We had received a complaint from Peter Chan, who went to our shop on 25th January and had a bad experience owing to our salesperson's rude attitude and lack of knowledge of the products. He was disappointed because of the services.

When Mr. Chan would like to choose a new mobile phone, the salesperson did not try to promote the products for him. Therefore, Mr. Chan asked for help – he would like the salesperson to introduce the functions of the phone. However, the salesperson did not give any response at the first time of asking. So, Mr. Chan asked again, but he did still not respond. The salesperson finally gave responses in the third time. Nevertheless, he talked to Mr. Chan rudely. He seemed feeling annoyed with having to promote the products.

Furthermore, he does not have enough knowledge about the products so he could not answer Mr. Chan's queries on the functions of the phone. As a result, Mr. Chan was dissatisfied and he finally asked another salesperson for help.

Mr. Chan was disappointed since the salesperson was very rude to him and could not give him any help. This is really unprofessional. According to our company's aims, customers should always be the top of the priority. The staff should also show their professional spirit when they are at work. Therefore, I am going to suggest three possible solutions so as to improve the quality of services.

First and foremost, providing regular training can maintain the quality of our services. In the training, all staff can know more about what they need to do when facing the customers. In order to help customers enjoy shopping in our company, good and satisfying service is of utmost importance. Our staff should learn how to interact with the customers and even the ways to deal with some vexed cases. There will be some assessments to guarantee a high quality of service. As a result, not only can the staff show a good work performance, the customers can also enjoy great services.

Additionally, allocating staff into different teams according to the brands allows them to focus on the brands they are in charge of. Our staff have to remember the information of a variety of brands. Putting them in teams to in charge of different brands like Sony, Samsung, LG and Apple... It can help reduce their workload and strengthen their memories. In this way, they will become more professional in providing information of the products, and our customers' questions and requests will be satisfied easily.

Last but not least, setting an award of "The Best Service Salesperson" can encourage our staff to improve their quality of service. Customers are the biggest stakeholders of the services since how they feel will reflect the quality of our company. So, they will be the judge to vote for "The Best Service Salesperson". The salesperson who provides good services and satisfies the customers will win the award. It will be a huge encouragement motivating them to improve and manage their services, like being careful of their attitude towards the customer. It helps increase the competitiveness between salespersons. Improving the poor services will bring customers feel better when doing shopping in our company. Moreover, "The Best Service Salesperson" will become a role model for the staff. As a result, all staff will learn from him/her in order to get this distinction. The atmosphere of our company will become more vivid too.

I hope my ideas will be useful in dealing with the problems mentioned in Mr. Chan's letter. It is important to maintain our company's reputation. However, it is more important to satisfy our honorable customers as it truly represents our quality as a good company. I sincerely hope our company can provide the best products and services, and our customers will no longer complain about us.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Wong

“Dream, Wish and Hope”

6E Lui Si Ming

People always say, only by education can we nurture all-rounded and reliable young people. In a bustling and flourishing city like Hong Kong, more and more parents encourage their children to study abroad so as to enrich their knowledge and experience. Studying overseas was just a dream in the 60s and 70s, but now, the dream comes true.

With rapid economic growth these years, many families are able to afford sending their beloved sons and daughters to other countries and complete their schooling. If study overseas is instrumental to their studies and can beef up their independence, then, why not? We all know that parents would do whatever they can to give the best to their children. In order to let them have better future prospects and to widen their insights, this phenomenon is becoming more ubiquitous.

Besides parents' love and stronger economic support, some send their children out of Hong Kong due to their disappointment towards Hong Kong's education system. All of us have a taste of the spoon-feeding and pushy curriculum. Yes, it results in excellent academic results, but behind the victorious stories, a lot of students are under pressure and creativity is often being neglected. Instead of the monotonous studies in Hong Kong, some parents prefer the encouraging educational style in England, America and Finland.

Every family has its own reasons to let their children study abroad or to stay. The reason why we call it as a 'dream' and students are longing to make this 'dream' come true is owing to the benefits brought by this eye-opening experience.

Just take a look at the lucky ones who have the chance to study overseas. They speak fluent English or even other foreign languages, they have a wide network of friends and they always seem to know more. It is not just about learning more from books and lectures, it is about lifelong experience. The most precious thing is to know about a country's history and culture, and to be independent and self-disciplined. Well-protected roses can finally have a glimpse of the world outside the greenhouse.

Apart from developing one's personalities and relationships, the experience also offers more in-depth learning. Rather than drilling and reciting, international students can find more interests in learning. Think about it, isn't it better to study literature in Britain? It is a place full of culture and stories, students can visit Shakespeare's home and to immerse themselves in the ambiance. Isn't it better to study science and mechanics in America? With opportunities of internships in world-class companies and the advance in technology, it is a great place for science students. Studying abroad really brings positive impact on students as our potentials would not be limited in a tiny place like Hong Kong.

Not only does it bring advantages to students, but also to local schools. Some worry about this phenomenon leads to the loss of talented young people, but we should have a clear mindset that it indeed improves our education style and we can actually attract more talented students with it. Educationalists are not dumb. They realize the cons of Hong Kong's education system and they are working on it. Recently, there is an increasing number of schools which adapt cooperative learning. Students can learn better via discussion and solving problems with their peers together. This kind of learning method is more effective and intriguing. It is crystal clear that local schools are improving due to the impact of Hong Kong students studying overseas. We also have IB test which emphasizes on projects and creativity instead of rote learning.

The reasons of having the 'dream' to complete schooling in other countries and the impact of this 'dream' coming true are clearly shown. Nonetheless, I have another 'dream' – One day, Hong Kong students would stay and appreciate our education system, or even to attract more foreign students to study here. That day, our education system will be attractive enough.

Welcome to

TINspiration

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

This is an anthology of students' writing of Tin Ka Ping Secondary School in the 2015-2016 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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