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NET SCHEME NEWS

BEYOND
THE
CLASSROOM



"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions." – Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The 20th Anniversary Conference of the Enhanced NET Scheme in Secondary Schools held on 23 June 2018 at Queen's College was a memorable event filled with joy, gratitude and camaraderie. In the conference, we celebrated the past – the fruitful collaborations, the range of curriculum innovations, and the array of learning opportunities created for students and teachers. We also explored possibilities through the keynote addresses that examined the potential of the NET Scheme, and the various parallel sessions that served to promote innovative practice. To all those playing a part in making the scheme and the conference a success, on behalf of the NET Section, I "can no answer make, but thanks, and thanks and ever thanks"¹.

In these twenty years, we have experienced and learnt a lot. Thanks to the quality work of the different stakeholders involved, including our school leaders, local teachers, NETs, and officers in the NET Section, we have also achieved a lot. We are pleased to see that more and more of our classrooms are becoming language-rich environments that effectively support English learning. We are delighted to observe the use of an increasing range of teaching strategies that makes English learning meaningful and pleasurable. We have also learnt from Professor Mary Shepard Wong, one of the keynote speakers at the conference, that our scheme stands out from similar schemes in the region, in terms of our more fully developed support system for professional and curriculum development.

Apart from the progress achieved through the scheme in fostering curriculum development, pedagogical change and teachers' professional growth, one major achievement of the NET Scheme that deserves equal recognition is the range of opportunities for students to experience meaningful learning beyond the classroom. In this issue of the NET Scheme News, apart from rich coverage of the 20th Anniversary Conference, we have contributions from primary and secondary NETs, as well as officers from the NET Section, that provide intriguing narratives about how such learning opportunities are provided. They also include anecdotes about how our students benefit from the additional exposure and learn more about themselves, the community and the world at large using English as the medium.

A number of the contributions are about how meaningful collaborations promoted under the scheme enable our students to develop global awareness and cultural sensitivity. In his article,

'Clean Hiking', Mr Konstantin Milchin, the NET at Sha Tin Government Secondary School, shares his school's experience of engaging their students in a global effort to clean up the planet. The students went on a hike organised by the Excursion Club, during which they "picked up litter along the way, documented it with a litter collection app called Litterati, and uploaded (their) data" to preserve the environment in collaboration with a digital community. Through this first-hand experience, the students were developing digital citizenship and environmental consciousness, which are 21st century competencies.

In the increasingly globalised world, it is an essential experience that students learn to appreciate, respect and embrace different cultures. We can read about how the collaboration of different members of the school community brings about this kind of experience that broadens students' horizons in the articles, 'A Visit to London' by Mr Edward Fillary, the NET at Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School, 'International Day of Culture' by Ms Maria Henery, the NET at Chinese Methodist School, Tanner Hill, and 'To Inspire and Be Inspired' by Ms Natasha Horn, the NET at Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School. As Ms Chu, Principal of Chinese Methodist School, Tanner Hill, puts it, such learning experiences are needed because "In a rapidly changing world, certain skills we teach may become outdated, but global awareness and cultural sensitivity will always be important in building harmonious societies." We need this kind of insight to promote positive curriculum change and we are pleased to see that the NET Scheme is contributing to this change.

As presented in the articles 'Hands on Stage 2017/18' by Ms Gina Green, Regional NET Coordinator, and 'Story to Stage' Puppetry Competition (Primary) by Ms Patricia Wong, Project Manager, the different competitions organised by the NET Section offer more than just opportunities for students to show their talent and win prizes. They provide both participating teachers and students with opportunities to learn, collaborate and innovate. In his article, 'Hands on Stage: Spurring Creativity, Enhancing Fluency and Having Rip-snorting Fun', Mr Nigel Pearson, the NET at Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School, reflects on how his school's participation in the puppetry competition has brought about valuable experiences that enable his students to play to their strengths through teamwork, to improve their skills with advice obtained from the NET Section's consultation session, and to learn from their peers,

¹ This is quoted from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.



including those from other schools. For Mr Philip Stride, the NET at Canton Road Government Primary School, the school puppetry team can be a delegation of ambassadors. In his article, 'Puppetry Beyond the City', Mr Stride presents puppetry as a connector that can facilitate lateral learning between English teachers in Hong Kong and the Mainland.

As language educators, we care as much about our students' whole-person development as we do about their literacy development. We wish our students to be effective learners, as well as caring and informed citizens. We are pleased to learn that as a result of the fruitful collaborations under the NET Scheme, there are effective school practices that provide rich experiences in support of both language and life-wide learning.

In the article, 'The NET Scheme Beyond the Classroom', the contributor, Ms Ravneet Kaur, the NET at Buddhist Wong Cheuk Um Primary School, shares her school's experience of incorporating experiential learning into the NET Section's literacy programme, Development of Text Sets, which is adopted to complement the school-based English Language curriculum. To stimulate the students' curiosity about pets, one of the unit topics, the school arranged a visit to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where the students learnt about different pets. As observed by Ms Kaur, the students loved the first-hand experience, which enabled them to write about the pet of their choice with a clear purpose.

"Sharing is caring". This is a key message that Ms Gauri Venkitaraman, the NET at Kowloon Bay St. John the Baptist Primary School, highlights in her article, 'The Laguna City Operation Santa Claus'. As a charity drive organised by a group of residents and external community partners, The Laguna City Operation Santa Claus provides opportunities for Ms Venkitaraman's students to learn from, and work with, committed adults, who offer assistance with singing practice and activity management. Apart from the unique learning experience, the students benefit immensely from their experience of serving

the community, spreading joy and showing care for others, especially the less privileged.

In the article, 'The Amazing Reading Adventures', contributed by Ms Terri Donlon, the English Panel Chair at St Stephen's Girls' College, we learn about how reading can be promoted in different ways to provide memorable learning experiences. Among the various related activities, the Book Character Day stands out as a celebration of a month-long 'Unplugged Readathon', during which students "put down their electronic devices and picked up books to read for Room to Read, a charity that builds schools and libraries and publishes books for students in developing countries". Apart from the joy of reading, students' contribution to the charity, which brings added value to the reading they have done, also deserves celebration.

With respect to charitable work, it is worth mentioning that we have educators in the NET Scheme who are committed to bringing kindness to the streets in Hong Kong. One such educator is Mr Jeff Rotmeyer, who has recently chosen to leave the NET Scheme so that he can fully commit himself to the noble cause of ImpactHK, a charity that he founded in 2016. The work of the charity is detailed in the article, 'ImpactHK - NET Makes an Impact', contributed by Mr Paul Mallia, Advisory Teacher.

"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions." Students provided with the types of learning experience mentioned above will expect more from their school life, both in and beyond the classroom. We should continue to awaken possibilities and create learning experiences that meet such expectations, thereby enabling our students to become knowledgeable and contributing members of society. Let's join hands and make a bigger difference.

Joe Leung
Chief Curriculum Development Officer
NET Section

The NET Scheme Beyond the Classroom

With the desire to use a variety of multimodal, multi-genre and quality texts in the classroom, our school joined the NET Section's DTS programme, hoping to stimulate students' curiosity and interest in reading and to cater for learner diversity.



Our Advisory Teacher, Mr Paul Mallia, came up with the brilliant idea of incorporating experiential learning into one of the units, which was on pets. Last year, we invited Dr Jane Gray to our school.

Dr Gray is the Chief Veterinary Surgeon of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). She came with her pet dog, Betty. Dr Gray informed the students about the responsibilities of being a pet owner as well as pets' needs in relation to their behaviour, diet, health and companionship.

The students' responses were amazing. They patted Betty and asked Dr Gray questions about her pet dog. Their incredibly positive responses were also clearly reflected in their final writing task.

This year, the P1 teaching team decided to visit the SPCA in Wanchai to introduce to the students other animals that could be suitable pets for them. The students found out more about different pets, why some people abandon their pets and that with pet ownership comes responsibility.



The SPCA excursion was certainly a success as the students observed living and breathing animals and were able to interact with a variety of pets. The students loved this experience and when writing about the pet of their choice, they wrote with a clear purpose, and demonstrated a good understanding of the topic. We were so glad we made the visit, just as we were about Dr Gray's visit last year. Thank you, SPCA. Thank you too, DTS. The project has enabled us to go beyond the classroom for some very meaningful learning.

Ravneet Kaur (Rina), NET, Buddhist Wong Cheuk Um Primary School

To Inspire and Be Inspired

At Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School, we have been running an event called the Human Library for six years and this year was one of the most successful years. We

had international volunteers from the USA, Sri Lanka, India, the UK, Malaysia, El Salvador, Ireland,



Learning all about delicious Malaysian food



Vietnam, Germany, Nepal and Italy. They were all from Service Civil International. We also had a huge number of additional international delegates including our wonderful Advisory Teacher, Kit Yong, from the NET Section, who came in to help with the event.

Our theme this year was 'Inspirational Events and People'. The guests were the 'human books' that spoke to the students who loved the wonderful chance to meet people from around the world. It was a fantastic confidence-building exercise for everyone!

Puppetry Beyond the City

In April 2018, teachers, students and parents from Canton Road Government Primary School visited their sister school, Tangshan Elementary School in Huadu District in Guangzhou, China. The purpose of the trip across the boundary was to exchange ideas, break down geographical barriers and build friendships. This was no easy task with the seemingly huge language and cultural barriers.

As the NET at the school, I was asked to join the trip to share a puppet show with the sister school. The puppetry team had worked hard since last September. In addition to writing a script, we created puppets, props and backdrops. As a NET, it is my job to encourage students to read, write, listen and speak in English.

We successfully managed to transport all the puppets, props and backdrops across the boundary to the sister school. Although the sound system was not very good and the microphones did not work very well, our team soldiered on. In fact, not being able to hear every single word did not seem to stop the audience from enjoying the show. After the show, teachers and students from our sister school spoke to us. Many of them had never seen such a puppet show before. They were interested in how the puppets worked and how the team practised for the performance. The puppet show not only demonstrated how language could be used in a fun and meaningful way, but it also broke down barriers by giving our Mainland colleagues a purpose to communicate with us. The puppets worked, just like us, as little ambassadors breaking down barriers and building friendships!

As the future unfolds, schools in Hong Kong will increasingly have to build relationships with their Mainland counterparts. NETs will also be involved in this process. Our experience in China has proven that puppetry works as a great tool to encourage communication. I hope I will be able to enjoy future trips to China where I can build on this experience to work more closely with my Mainland colleagues.

Philip Stride, NET, Canton Road Government Primary School



This year the students played with some cool toys from El Salvador and the 'German books' told them where their favourite Kinder and Haribo treats came from. The 'Irish book' had lots of wonderful pictures of monuments from around the world that were made green for St Patrick's Day. At the India stand were some amazing musical instruments and the students loved getting involved with some Indian dancing.



Playing with toys from El Salvador

We are planning to expand our list of international delegates. So if you would like to join our event next year to see what all the fun is about, we would love to have you. We would be happy to return the favour if you want to host a human library in your own school.



Dancing with the 'Indian book'

Natasha Horn, NET, Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School

International Day of Culture at Chinese Methodist School, Tanner Hill

For three years now, Chinese Methodist School, Tanner Hill, has held an 'International Day of Culture'. One of the purposes of the event is to allow students to learn about different cultures and countries of the world, thus enabling them to respect, accept and embrace other cultures and people, thereby creating a harmonious world.



This year, the event was held over three days and took place at the end of term one. At the beginning of the term, students were briefed on the four-month process of discovery learning. Each of the 19 classes was randomly assigned a country by an app called 'Decide Now'. All students were given two booklets which guided them in their search for information about each country. During the term, teachers guided students when necessary, but the emphasis was on student-centred learning.



The excitement from the students was palpable throughout the entire International Day of Culture as was the atmosphere of self-discovery all over the school. The first day started with a catwalk and talent show in which teachers, students and parents showcased costumes and talents from different countries. After that, students visited booths prepared by parents and teachers where they learnt about different countries through various activities and exhibitions. These included food tasting, crafts and traditional games. On the second and third days, students visited each other's classrooms where the host class presented and displayed their work. Models, maps, costumes, flags, games and musical instruments were just some of the fantastic ideas and activities the students came up with.

The International Day of Culture was summed up by Principal Chu, who said, 'In a rapidly changing world, certain skills we teach may become outdated, but global awareness and cultural sensitivity will always be important in building harmonious societies.'

'Life education is very important at our school and it promotes the core values of CMSTH (the acronym for the school name), which are CARE, MISSION, SELF-DISCIPLINE, TALENT and HARMONY. These are the values we aim to instill in each child that we have the privilege of educating,' said the Principal. With Principal Chu and teachers setting good examples to foster these important values, students put these into practice daily, at school, at home and in the world around them.

As a teacher, one of the outcomes of this event was a deeper bond with my colleagues, making me proud to be part of a team which is always working towards attaining a better future for our students and society.

Maria Henery, NET, Chinese Methodist School, Tanner Hill



A Virtual Visit to London



An English Carnival was held from 13 to 16 March 2018 at Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School (Shatin) to commemorate the school's 30th Anniversary. The theme of the carnival was 'A Visit to London'. Highlights of the carnival were the 'One Belt, One Road' Fashion Show featuring traditional clothing designed and made by S2 students, solo singing performances and an English Café offering student-made coffees and snacks served to visitors by student waiters.

Mr Joe Leung, the head of the NET Section, opened the event and gave a speech. Around 300 students



and teachers from nine different secondary schools attended the carnival, which was held in the school hall with 15 themed stalls decorated and manned by

S5 students. The stalls re-created experiences one would have while sightseeing in London, together with English-based games and challenges. Visitors could choose from experiences such as the



Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the London National Art Gallery, Harrods, using VR goggles to visit the London Eye, buying tickets to a

football match at Stamford Bridge and even playing a game of darts at a local pub. Visitors passed through 'immigration' with their completed entry forms and were given replica notes in both British

pounds and Hong Kong dollars. If they used up their pounds, they could go to a 'money changer' or the 'bank' to exchange currencies.

During their visit, students had to speak English at all times or the student-led police would send them to jail where they had to complete English tasks to get out. Students received stamps in

their pass books based on their English ability and performance at each stall. These stamps and the unused 'money' contributed towards prizes which could be collected from the prize counter after the visit had ended.

The event was a great success with all participants having fun while speaking and learning English through the experience.

**Edward Fillary, NET,
Helen Liang Memorial
Secondary School
(Shatin)**



The Amazing Reading Adventures at St Stephen's Girls' College

The Amazing Reading Race

Racing to read and reading to race! This was the challenge our Form Two students took on last term. The students formed teams and read across seven genres, each corresponding to a continent. Once all team members had read books in one genre, they could move on to the next continent, until they had read their way around the world. The results? 171 students read 508 books – what a way to motivate our next generation of readers!



Book Character Day

This was a fun-filled day for our Form One students to celebrate the end of a month-long 'Unplugged Readathon', during which they put down their electronic devices and picked up books to read for Room to Read, a charity that builds schools and libraries and publishes books for students in developing countries. Students read a total of 541 books, spent 49,981 minutes reading them and raised \$16,241.10 for this worthy cause.

On 26 March, students and the entire English Department dressed as their favourite book characters! Highlights of the day included the excitement of a parade, an inter-class competition involving reading aloud an excerpt from chosen books, and students introducing themselves as a specific character. Prizes were awarded for best costumes and best performances. The day was a joyous celebration of reading enjoyed by all.



The 'Bringing Books to Life' Project

Working in conjunction with the English Department, our Library Team is hugely creative in its attempt to breathe life into fictional characters. Over the past months, the library doors opened into the world of Willy Wonka. To the strains of the 'Oompa-Loompa' song, students uncovered a series of challenging clues to find 50 'golden tickets' and the 'Wonka Bar'! A few months on, the library once again transformed itself into the wizarding world of Harry Potter, bringing Diagon Alley so realistically to life. This time, book-related activities were structured to accommodate different levels of readers across all forms. And most recently, Alice in Wonderland has taken up residence in the library to celebrate World Book Day, offering a variety of interactive reading activities.

Creative Writing Workshop

In March, our Form Two English language students greatly enjoyed a Creative Writing Workshop led by an award-winning Canadian author, Kenneth Oppel. This worthwhile opportunity was facilitated by the HK International Young Readers Festival and involved fun, interactive writing activities. The students enjoyed some word games before getting down to the basics of story creation: brainstorming, plot mapping, character development and narrative structure. They were then introduced to a writer's tricks of the trade and spent a very productive time creating their own narratives based on visual prompts.

Terri Donlon, EPC, St Stephen's Girls' College

Clean Hiking



How do you take a common activity such as hiking – that already gives you the gifts of healthy exercise and nature's rejuvenation – and turn it into something a little more special? It's easier than you think. Just add some innovation, mix it up with collaboration, and you have created a value-added educational experience. That's the recipe from 20 Years of the ENET Scheme – Collaborate, Innovate, Create.

The first Excursion Club event of the year at my school was more than a pleasurable hike on a country trail in Hong Kong's beautiful green mountains. What made this hike special was taking a small action to care for our environment. We picked up litter along the way, documented it with a litter collection app called Litterati, and uploaded our data to join a global effort to clean up our planet.

Collaborate with the World

In today's connected society, why limit yourself? Think of collaborating with thousands, even millions, of other people, and not just in your school, but all of Hong Kong and even the world. Picture global collaboration with a local solution to a global problem.

The Excursion Club did just that on our first hike. Each member, teachers included, picked up one piece of litter at a time from the trail we were hiking along. We took photos of the litter, tagged it with keywords, geotagged the location, and collectively, we filled one shopping bag with about 60 pieces of litter during a morning's hike. One small individual action

carried out just a couple of times by thousands of people around the world leads to a huge impact. That's global collaboration in action!

Innovate with a Smartphone

We all have smartphones, and our students do too. We use them every day. We message people with texts, share our experiences with photos and comments on social media, do lots of shopping, and find almost any information at our fingertips. A commonplace, everyday tool used in a new way. That's creative innovation.

Create 21st Century Competencies

By picking up one piece of litter at a time, we create cleaner hiking trails, a cleaner Hong Kong and a cleaner world. We have also contributed to the creation of a database of documented litter that can be, and has been, used for policy decision-making. 5th graders from the Freemont Open School in the US, for instance, picked up 1,247 pieces of litter on their school campus and documented them. They identified plastic straw wrappers as the most common type of litter. So, the school stopped buying straws and eliminated the litter problem at its source.

Apart from these tangibles, we teachers also create values and competencies in our students. Among these are digital citizenship and environmental consciousness – two 21st century competencies identified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



as necessary for our students' future. By using the Litterati app in collaboration with thousands of others around the world, students in effect become members of a larger digital community. This is digital citizenship. By picking up litter from a hiking trail, as the students of the Excursion Club did, they also experience environmental consciousness from a first-hand perspective.

So, use the recipe from 20 Years of the ENET Scheme – collaborate with the world, innovate with a smartphone, and create 21st century competencies for your students.

Konstantin Milchin, NET, Sha Tin Government Secondary School

'Hands on Stage': Spurring Creativity, Enhancing Fluency and Having Rip-snorting Fun

For us at Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School, taking part in the NET Section's 'Hands On Stage' Puppetry Competition held on 15 May 2018 was all about exploring creativity. This was the second year we had entered the competition and with the benefit of experience, we decided to be more adventurous in developing puppets and scripting the play.

The competition theme of 'Power' was first brainstormed using images from the Internet. The Form 2 and 3 students chose the idea of a spoof of 'Angry Birds' in which bird puppets launched an attack on humans. The script was jointly written over several sessions with grammar and structure advice from the teacher. Support materials for the writing included a list of bird-related idioms and favourite quotes from George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. A display board was used to gather drawings, character studies and other inspiration. A separate group of creative students was recruited to prepare and paint the scenery, so this left the puppeteers free to rehearse their lines.

Making the puppets was a project that spanned many lunch times, involving much initiative and some trial and error. Materials saved from last year's competition were pulled out of storage (felt, coloured foam, wool, socks and other bits and pieces), and feathers were sought far and wide. The cheapest and most colourful item used to decorate the bird puppets was foil candy-wrappers. The bodies of the puppets consisted of a stuffed red Christmas hat for the angry red bird, paper lanterns and plastic barrels. The beaks were simply clothes pegs, extended with corrugated cardboard or plastic spoons that were wired into the birds' bodies.

'Story to Stage' Puppetry Competition (Primary)



The pig had an open hole, where a mouth might have been for the puppeteer's gloved fingers to stick out and move like teeth or a tongue. After much gluing and some sewing, the puppets were ready to use, and putting the action and speech together could begin.

The consultation session with drama service provider Mr Scott Wilkins, run by the NET Section, was especially helpful. The students learnt to alter their voices to suit their characters. The pig, for example, snorted intermittently when giving his lines.

After scooping both the 3rd Prize and the award for Puppet Design, we were all very pleased. Despite less than perfect final rehearsals at school, the students' performance finally came together on the day.

'Hands on Stage' is a fun way for students to learn what is involved in a small-scale drama production, and I'm amazed by the other schools' clever ideas.

Nigel Pearson, NET, Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School



A total of 81 schools took part in the 'Story to Stage' Primary Puppetry Competition 2017/18. This engaging, educational English activity organised by the NET Section was held this year at the Princess Alexandra Community Centre and the Tsuen Wan Town Hall. The process began with teachers attending a centralised professional development workshop followed by a cluster meeting to share ideas and good practices. After devising an innovative story, the school teams began working on the design of the puppets, props and backdrops, followed by training and rehearsals up to the very day of the competition. Here are the 1st prize winners:

Primary Puppetry Competition 2018

Session 1	Kowloon Tong Government Primary School (Cinderella - A Recycled Tale)
Session 2	Hong Kong Baptist Convention Primary School (Turn Back Time)
Session 3	Baptist Sha Tin Wai Lui Ming Choi Primary School (Add Oil, but not Literally)
Session 4	Shaukiwan Tsung Tsin School (The Principal's New Clothes)
Session 5	Baptist Lui Ming Choi Primary School (The New Version of the Tortoise and the Hare)
Session 6	Marymount Primary School (The "Gifts" of the Three Cats)
Session 7	St. Antonius Primary School (Food Machine)
Session 8	Po Leung Kuk Chee Jing Yin Primary School (Little Red Riding Hood Tricks the Wolf)

"...it (this competition) can show us teamwork."
Harry Chan, SKH Yuen Chen Maun Chen Jubilee Primary School

"Well it's great really and the students got a chance to perform at a very large venue and this is an unforgettable experience for them."
Ms Catherine Hau,
Po Leung Kuk Castar Primary School

"Actually, all the teams were very good. They performed very well...and the students can speak really fluent English. So it's amazing."
Ms Vinci Chan, Canton Road Government Primary School

Remarks:

Photos and videos of the 1st prize winners are available on the NET Scheme's e-Platform at <http://nets.edb.hkedcity.net>

Patricia Wong, Project Manager, NET Section

'Speak Out – Act Up!' 2018



The annual 'Speak Out – Act Up!' Improvised Drama competition was held this year over two weeks in early March. The competition,

in its 10th year, attracted 69 teams from throughout Hong Kong. The secondary school teams performed in Shatin and Tuen Mun town halls, and this year, also in Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre with 10 to 12 teams in each of the six sessions.

Some new judges helped out together with some familiar faces. Among them was Mr Arvin Robles. Mr Robles, an educator by day and a theatre director by night, gave students a suggestion on how to enhance their vocal variety: incorporating the 4Ps of Voice. These consist of Power (varying the volume and projection), Pitch (high and lower tones), Pace (changing the speed) and Pause (introducing stops for particular effects).

Ms Sparrow, an experienced NET and 'Speak Out – Act Up!' adjudicator, said that she was really impressed by the high standard of English shown, both among the teams and across the competition, especially students' fluency and pronunciation. She noted some of the entertaining, informal language used and encouraged students to strive to maintain clarity of speech throughout their performances.

One teacher from a winning team, Mr Ernest Kam from Yan Chai Hospital Wong Wha San Secondary School, said, "'Speak Out – Act Up!' – small team, great fun! We can focus on acting, without the

distraction of props, costumes, music, budget and so on. It isn't just a competition, but a comprehensive journey exploring the world of drama, thanks to the teaching ideas from the workshops and other resources. Producing a short play from scratch, you will see how much the students have learnt, how confident they have become, and how rewarding it is seeing them having fun brainstorming crazy ideas."

Mr Scott Linder, the NET at Jockey Club Ti-I College, said, "My kids love 'Speak Out – Act Up!' and are super proud of winning. They'll perform their dramas in front of the school and have a prize presentation on the same day."

This year's topic, "20 years Hong Kong:", included a lot of time travel between 1998 and 2018. It was interesting for older audience members to see students talking about issues that they had not been alive to experience, for example SARS, or unfamiliar things like non-flat screen TVs, as though this was ancient history. Of course to a 13-year-old it probably is! The topic was chosen to coincide with the NET Scheme's 20th anniversary celebration. It proved more challenging than those in the past, so an easier one will be chosen next year – promise!

The competition will run again next year with the usual two 3-hour drama workshops for teachers in November and the entry forms due in early December. Teachers, please watch out for more information in the new school year and encourage your students to take part. If you have never taken part before, give it a go!

Gina Green, Regional NET Coordinator, NET Section

First Prize Winners



Hong Kong & Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Secondary School



HKBUAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary School



CCC Kwei Wah Shan College



CCC Hoh Fuk Tong College



Yan Chai Hospital Wong Wha San Secondary School



Jockey Club Ti-I College



Prize list for 'Speak Out - Act Up!' 2018

Team prizes:	School name:
1st	Yan Chai Hospital Wong Wha San Secondary School Jockey Club Ti-I College CCC Hoh Fuk Tong College HKBUAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary School CCC Kwei Wah Shan College Hong Kong & Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Secondary School
Other team prizes:	
2nd	SKH Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School South Tuen Mun Government Secondary School Yuen Long Merchants' Association Secondary School The Chinese Foundation Secondary School St Teresa Secondary School King's College
3rd	Christ College Lung Kong WFLS Lau Wong Fat Secondary School PLK Tang Yuk Tien College St Louis School PLK Ma Kam Ming College St Paul's Secondary School
Merit	Lions College Pui Shing Catholic Secondary School CUHKFAA Thomas Cheung Secondary School Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School Buddhist Kok Kwong Secondary School Buddhist Sin Tak College
Audience prizes: (no certificates awarded for this prize)	Queen's College Old Boys' Association Secondary School SKH Lam Kau Mow Secondary School The ELCHK Yuen Long Lutheran Secondary School Ying Wa College St Louis School Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School
Individual prizes:	Speak Out - Act Up! Superstar Award (best overall performance) Chan Teruki, SKH Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School Kwong Lok Yi Sandy, Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce Secondary School Batdee Putanead Nicholas, TWGHs Sun Hoi Directors' College Lai Tsun Ho Jason, Sing Yin Secondary School LAU Pui Wai, Yan Chai Hospital Wong Wha San Secondary School Tsang Yuk Wah, The YWCA Hioe Tjo Yoeng College
	Speak Out! Star Award (best use of English) Cyndi Kwok Kit Yan, Tin Ka Ping Secondary School Kwok Atrie, HKBUAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary School Ng Siu Long, CCC Kei Yuen College Jessica LEUNG, St Teresa Secondary School Bautista Kurt Xanderiel Baldonado, CCC Kwei Wah Shan College Merari Cheung, TWGHs Lee Ching Dea Memorial College
	Act Up! Star Award (best acting) Chu Wing Yin, SALEM: Immanuel Lutheran College Fung Ching Yiu, South Tuen Mun Government Secondary School Chen Sze Ming, Yuen Long Merchants' Association Secondary School Khan Aaliyan, The MCHK Wesley College LAM Kak Yi, China Holiness Church Living Spirit College Mohammad Faria Arshad, Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School Andy Hau, Buddhist Sin Tak College





'Hands on Stage' 2017/18

The 2017/18 'Hands on Stage' Puppetry Competition attracted 18 teams from 16 secondary schools throughout Hong Kong in two sessions on 15 May in Sheung Wan Civic Centre.

Teams wrote original scripts based on the topic 'Power...', added their own subtitles and performed their scripts in teams of 4 to 5, with up to two student helpers. Each team had between 5 and 7 minutes to perform and used simple backdrops and commercial or hand-made puppets. As well as a great first prize of \$900 worth of book coupons and a trophy, there were team prizes for 2nd and 3rd as well as two Merit Prizes. Judges were looking at performers' scripts, voice work, puppetry technique and backdrop and effects. The puppet design prize worth \$250 plus a trophy was offered to teams that made their own puppets, going this year to Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School and PLK Laws Foundation Secondary School for their splendid puppets.



The backdrops this year were both impressive and creative with one team from De La Salle Secondary School N.T. covering the tent with a red cloth to represent Mars.

A workshop for teachers new to the competition and three voluntary consultation sessions for students with their teacher were held before the competition where teams were offered tips for better performances, especially in terms of voice work and puppetry techniques. The sessions were held by the Regional NET Coordinators with help from drama service provider Mr Scott Wilkins. Mr Wilkins and his theatrical team also performed an object theatre skit on 15 May to entertain the audience whilst judges deliberated.

In the coming school year the 'Hands on Stage' Puppetry Competition will take place again. Watch out for more details early in the new school year.

Gina Green, Regional NET Coordinator, NET Section

Prize list for 'Hands on Stage' for 15 May 2018 (am and pm)

Team awards & prizes:	What they receive:	School name and team:
1st	\$900 book coupons + trophy	De La Salle Secondary School, N.T., Team 2 Po Leung Kuk Laws Foundation College
Other team prizes:		
2nd	\$800 book coupons + trophy	International Christian Quality Music Sec & Pri School St Teresa Secondary School
3rd	\$700 book coupons + trophy	The MCHK Wesley College, Team 1 Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School
Merit	\$500 book coupons + trophy	St Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong Ho Dao College (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)
Merit	\$500 book coupons + trophy	SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School Fanling Rhenish Church Secondary School
Additional prizes:		
Puppet design (handmade puppets)	\$250 book coupons + trophy	Po Leung Kuk Laws Foundation College Shek Lei Catholic Secondary School
Audience prizes (people's prizes):		
		The MCHK Wesley College, Team 2 Ho Dao College (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)

ImpactHK – NET Makes an Impact

In March 2016, Primary NET Jeff Rotmeyer founded ImpactHK, a charity that transforms the lives of the homeless by giving them a second chance.

ImpactHK serves the homeless with food, drinks and other supplies 30 times per month and stresses using kindness to form connections. It aims to give the homeless a second chance through counselling, helping them find a job, a home and many more opportunities for holistic changes. The newly-opened centre in Tai Kok Tsui, called The Guestroom, provides incredible support for the homeless throughout Hong Kong, taking them off the street.

If you'd like to get involved in ImpactHK, here's how you can help.



Using kindness to form connections

Walk

The easiest way is to join one of the Kindness Walks. To do so, simply hit 'going' on the Facebook event page and show up. All event details can be found on the event page.

Donate products

Clean clothing, bedding and towels are always appreciated as are airline packs and other donations. Unfortunately, at this time ImpactHK does not normally have the manpower to collect, but donations can be handed in at the start of scheduled walks.

Donate money

ImpactHK raises funds to help the people they serve get off the streets and into homes. Costs include rental deposits, the first month's rent, real estate fees and transport.

Donate skills

This humanitarian movement has been made possible by hundreds of caring and dedicated volunteers coming together to make kindness a priority.

You can find ImpactHK on Facebook at 'ImpactHKcharity' or on the website www.impacthk.org.

Paul Mallia, Advisory Teacher, NET Section



The Laguna City Operation Santa Claus



The Laguna City Operation Santa Claus (OSC) event is a charity drive organised every year by a group of residents, in conjunction with the SCMP and RTHK.

One special feature about this charity drive is that children are involved in many different aspects of the event.

The Laguna City Junior Choir consists of children between the ages of 5-11 who, ably assisted by the adults, diligently practise singing Christmas carols for a month before the event. They then go house-to-house carolling to spread joy and cheer in households. Any donations collected are sent to Operation Santa Claus.

The 'OSC drive' has consistently been growing more popular and now being held on a much bigger scale, it includes a food fair, sale of merchandise, a sponsored Charity Walk called 'Go the Extra Mile', online auctions and raffle draws.

Many young people play a very important role in the event from managing merchandise sales to independently running henna and games stalls during the fair.

For the organising committee, the responsibilities are tremendous and the schedules demanding as we juggle our professional lives during the day and meet up at night to plan the event. There are plenty of fires to put out along the way and all our hard work culminates in the annual Laguna City OSC event, which has been featured on the 1-2-3 show on RTHK3 and in the online and print editions of the SCMP.

The people – children and adults alike – who put all their effort into making this event happen, are many. Their purpose, however, is the same – to extend unconditionally love and kindness to others.



As parents and teachers, we often tell children 'Sharing is Caring'. The spirit of sharing is exemplified in this event. The common sentiment that runs deep is that 'it is never too early to start teaching the younger generation to care for the less fortunate members of our society'.

As Anne Frank once said, 'No one has ever become poor from giving.'

Gauri Venkitaraman, NET, Kowloon Bay St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

The NET Section has developed an interactive e-platform <http://nets.edb.hkedcity.net/> with support from the HKEdCity. Through this e-platform, multimedia information will be provided about the range of projects, programmes, competitions, pedagogical innovations and other school support services promoted under the NET Scheme. The work of both the primary Advisory Teaching Team and secondary Regional NET Coordinating Team will also be publicised to the wider international community. Scan the QR code and visit our e-platform.



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