



Keeping Stakeholders Informed

NET Scheme news

Showing we care through what we wear

The students at Sir Ellis Kadoorie (S) Primary School know 'Dress Casual Day' means 'Dress Special Day', so on 30 September each year they abandon their school uniform for a more colourful look. The students at this school come from diverse national and cultural backgrounds. Yet they are a cohesive and unique group, eager and willing to contribute to the wider community by donating to the Community Chest.

This annual event is their big opportunity to showcase and share their national costumes with their schoolmates. At the same time, it is a great way to participate in a form of welfare work for their extended community. This year they were proud to contribute \$13,727 to charity from this event. What a fun way to learn about community values!



Principal Wong Chung Wai Yee with students on 'Dress Special Day'

Cameras were busily snapping everywhere – in the playground, with friends in the classrooms and along the corridors with the teachers. Everyone was keen to have a photo taken with our popular principal who happily took time out of her busy schedule to walk around and pose with these enthusiastic students.

How well did their studies fare that day? Let's just say that 'cultural studies' was the top priority . . .

By Mrs Ahmed MM, English Teacher

Know your flag



On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, students have shown heightened interest in the design and symbolism of the National Flag. The red flag with five yellow stars was designed by Zeng Liansong and hoisted in Tiananmen Square on 1 October, 1949. It signifies national unity, sovereignty and dignity. Red is the colour of revolution while the biggest yellow star represents the Chinese Communist Party. The smaller stars represent the social groups that make up the population. They also signify independence, freedom, democracy and unification. There are regulations governing the size of the flag and how it should be displayed and positioned.

Reference: Wikipedia; <http://www.gov.hk>; <http://www.cqzg.cn>; <http://hk.geocities.com>; <http://www.gov.cn>

By Bonnie Ko, CuO

Support measures for Non-Chinese Speaking students

- The EDB has in place different support measures to help non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students in the education system integrate into the wider community.
- In the 2008-09 school year, the measures included the provision of intensive on-site support and special grants to 16 designated primary schools and six secondary schools.
- A supplementary guide has been developed for teaching the Chinese Language to NCS students.
- Tertiary institutions have been commissioned to provide on-site support programmes and to run Chinese Language Learning Support Centres offering further support to NCS students and to train Chinese Language teachers in schools with NCS students.

Reference: <http://www.yearbook.gov.hk/2008/en/pdf/E07.pdf>
(English version)

為非華語學生推行的支援措施

- 教育局為非華語學生推行各種支援措施，協助他們融入本地教育體系和社會。
- 這些措施包括在二零零八至零九學年把 16 所小學和六所中學列為“指定學校”，提供深入的到校支援和特別津貼。
- 此外，當局已制訂補充指引，以協助學校向非華語學生教授中文。
- 同時又委託大專院校為學校提供支援服務和營辦學習中文支援中心，向非華語學生提供課後支援，並培訓教授非華語學生的中文教師。

Reference: <http://www.yearbook.gov.hk/2008/tc/pdf/C07.pdf> (Chinese version)

Seed project supports schools with Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) students



Hong Kong has always prided itself on being a multi-racial society. To maintain the harmony that already exists, it is vital that we continue to provide all students with the best possible education and teach them sound language skills so that open communication is always possible. To do this successfully, we need to cater for an increasing number of ethnic students.

Many local schools have seen a significant increase in the number of students who do not read or write Chinese. While some of these non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students are quite fluent in English, others require targeted help to improve their English literacy levels.

This is the basis of a new Seed Project which involves teachers from target schools working closely with NET Section Advisory Teachers to develop a school-based curriculum that meets the learning needs of NCS students. The project group, in collaboration with the Seed seconded teachers, will develop and trial materials to improve the education of NCS students throughout Hong Kong.

During the past six years, the NET Section has developed comprehensive Primary Literacy Programmes both in Reading (PLP-R) and in Reading and Writing (PLP-R/W). These are now being used extensively throughout Hong Kong primary schools. This new Seed Project will use the sound foundations of the PLP-R/W which will be adapted and modified to develop a programme for NCS students.

The NCS Seed Project has grown from an obvious need to provide a more relevant, interesting and culturally-aware educational environment for these ethnic groups at primary level. In turn, it is hoped that these students will complete their secondary education in Hong Kong, continue on to tertiary institutions and contribute towards creating a balanced and harmonious multi-cultural society.

By **Simon Tham**
Chief Curriculum Development Officer

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Harmony across cultures



Hong Kong Taoist Association School has been accepting Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) students since 2002. Over the years the school has seen a decline in the number of Chinese students enrolled, as students from Pakistani, Indian, Nepalese, Filipino and many other backgrounds take their place. Given the diverse backgrounds of both the teaching staff and the students, it is very pleasing to see how harmoniously everyone works together.

One very obvious result of this change in clientele is that English is the medium of instruction in all classes, except in the Chinese class, of course. Many of our students arrive at school with quite good levels of spoken English. Our school has worked for several years to develop a suitably challenging literacy programme.

The programme builds on their oral skills while supporting the development of their literacy skills.

This year our school has joined a Seed Project in connection with the NET Section. This aims at developing specific materials to be used in NCS schools. This is a three-year project which is in its infancy. The school is looking forward to the progress of this project to help these children make the most of their English learning potential and enthusiasm.

By Mark Shaw, NET

Sixty balloons

The students of Ju Ching Chu Secondary School (Yuen Long) were very surprised on 23 September, 2009. To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the inauguration of the East Asian Games, our school prepared a spectacular closing ceremony for the annual Sports Day.

The students shared the first taste of the East Asian Games – an Olympic-style torch relay. The torch bearers included Mr Charles Chu, Head (Competition Events), 2009 East Asian Games, Madam Ju Ching Lan, and the Principal, Dr Poon Po Chiu. The relay stirred up excitement and got everyone's attention.

Then followed a celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. Sixty red balloons were released. While those balloons were floating and spreading across the sky, I hoped that each would bear a blessing for China's development and for harmonious diplomatic relations.

To help China develop more rapidly, students should grasp every chance to improve their English. For instance, we can talk to our NET, Mrs Catherine Lam, and we can learn useful vocabulary and phrases by reading English texts. I am convinced that our achievements will benefit our motherland in the near future.

By Sandy Chan Sin Yee, S6B student



Fashion week



At SKH Chu Yan Primary School, we held a Fashion Week as part of our P3 writing programme. The P3s have been learning about clothing items as well as various adjectives that we can use to describe a person. As a way of reinforcing this knowledge, we decided that each P3 class would present a fashion show.

First of all, students had to work in groups of four. One person had to be the fashion model and star in their class fashion show. Two people had to be presenters. Their job was to describe what the model was wearing and how they looked (e.g. handsome, elegant, cute, trendy or cool!). Finally, one person was the writer and had to write the scripts for the presenters.

The fashion shows have enabled the students to practise both their written and oral language skills. We have found that this activity has been a really fun way for the students to work as a team and enrich their understanding of the skills developed in their writing lessons. In the coming weeks, we will ask each group to write a report about the fashion show and include their own opinions about the event.

By Venessa Franklin, NET



A SCOUTMASTER'S JOURNEY

Many students have remarked on the new uniforms, the many games and knotting activities that have appeared around the campus, as well as the camps that have been organised over the past year. It has been a great pleasure and honour to have opened up and together with my Assistant Scout Leader Mr Lam, now to lead the Troop of Scouts in our school.

When I was about eight years old I joined the Cub Scouts in the United States. When I moved to Hong Kong six years ago, I thought, 'What can I give back to the community here?' The answer was Scouts. I was appointed the Scout Leader of the 36th Hong Kong Scout Troop with its long history and special English-language nature.

In Hong Kong, young people live largely in worlds dominated by their parents and schools and often lack independence, self-confidence and self-discipline. Their worlds are rather narrow in scope, and students are somewhat computer-obsessed, lacking in skills and alienated from nature. They are not the masters of themselves. To me, Scouting is a means to achieve this mastery.

I find myself doing activities like diving in the coral gardens of Tung Ping Chau, kayaking in the crystalline waters of Sai Kung, mountaineering in Scotland, New Zealand and Australia, as well as around the myriad hills of Hong Kong. Scouting teaches us to learn by doing. Now a new challenge is upon me at Shatin Pui Ying College as I build another Scout troop. I cherish the chance.

By Timothy Thistle, NET



Clipit makes the cut



(Left to right) : Milly Ng (seated), Ms Arianne Wassermann (NET), Annie Poon and Miko Law

'We're in it to win it,' says Milly with a laugh and a smile. 'Just kidding,' she giggles. 'It's a good opportunity to work with friends.'

'I've never done anything like this before,' Miko emphasises proudly.

These students at CCC Kei Yuen College in Yuen Long are talking about Clipit, a student-created short film competition run by the NET Section. Students worked in groups to select one of

six video clips depicting either Sports Communication or Popular Culture, two of the NSS elective modules. Students then researched a script for the selected video clip and edited the film. Finally, students added a voice-over commentary, subtitles and special effects.

Milly (Ng Wing Yan), Hiram (Chan Him Lok), Miko (Law Pui Ting) and Annie (Poon Kit Yee) were encouraged by their NET, Ms Arianne Wassermann. An optional three-hour video-editing workshop supports the competition and schools receive the DVDs with the six video clips to use for teaching. This year's Clipit competition will focus on Workplace Communication and Short Stories.

By Phillip Weber, RNC

Riga's worth a visit



'Where's that?' is the usual response to my comment about Riga being my first stop on a trip through to Russia this summer.

Riga (pronounced as Reega) is the capital of Latvia and is a pleasant, historic city. The bright green grass and tall trees impressed me as well as the cobblestone streets, brightly-coloured flowers for sale and in the gardens, the clear blue sky and the

extremely attractive young people.

Its 716,000 inhabitants make Riga the largest city in the three Baltic states. It has a historic city centre which has been declared a UNESCO world heritage site and is well known for its Art Nouveau-style architecture.

The river Daugava, with its several bridges, flows through the flat city. It is easy to take a local bus or even to cycle around town or go to nearby towns. About 50km away are Sigulda and Turaida, known for their castles. About 65 kilometres from Riga and close to the Lithuanian border is the 138-room Rundale Palace, the country's most important Baroque palace. The 30km beach at the Jurmala area, about 25 kilometres from Riga central, is also a pleasant daytrip.

There is plenty to do in Riga itself. From the viewing gallery of St Peter's Church there are great views of the old city centre (see photo above). You can also visit various museums, such as the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia 1940-1991. Cheap flights from Western Europe make Riga a must-see tourist destination!

By Gina Green, RNC