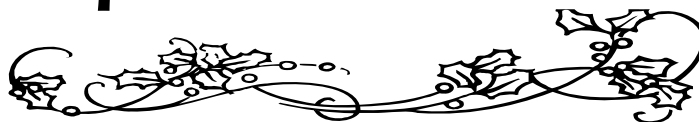


Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon)

Episodes



Sept 06 - Jan 07

Issue 1

Speech Day

On 8 December 2006, Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) conducted its annual Speech Day. During this event our Principal, Mr. Fung Kam-cheung, presented the 2005/2006 Annual School Report and kept the students, staff and visitors informed of the important events and occasions for the last school year. We were indeed fortunate to have our guest-of-honour, Mr. Christopher Lavender, the Director of the Kadoorie Charitable Foundations, to give a t r e m e n d o u s l y inspirational and moving speech to the audience.



Mr. Lavender giving his speech

As the audience of supportive relatives, classmates, friends and other supporters looked on, awards were presented to prize-winners of a wide spectrum of subjects and extra-curricular activities. There were many presentations handed out, recognizing academic achievements in a wide

variety of subjects ranging from traditional school subjects like Mathematics and History, to other events and activities such as oriental dance, hockey, cricket, performing arts, general athletics. It is evident from the scope and diversity of the awards presented that this is a school that focuses on a cross-discipline integration and strives for academic excellence. Congratulations to all the students who did well!

Following the award ceremony, there were entertaining performances presented by the students, which reflect the enthusiasm, energy and talent of the school student body. The first performance was a wonderfully conducted Chinese folk dance called "Yun Nan Lanterns". This was followed by Ilyn Joy Bartido of 2F doing an English solo verse presentation of the poem "Seasons" by Peter Dixon. Then came a French role-play entitled

"On Se Dispute". Up next, the audience was treated to another dance performance, this time an Oriental dance entitled "A Golden Morning". Following this Marychelle Turas Avellano and Yeung Sui Ying Girly Sansaet of S5 did a very entertaining dramatic duologue called "The Goose Girl!". This was followed by some S1 students with beautiful singing in Chinese, then the school choir performance of two songs,



Spectacular Chinese folk dance



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"Children of a Mind" and "Friend of Mine". All who participated did a great job and should be proud of their contributions to make this day a huge success.

Athletes Set New Records

Once again, athletes of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) had the chance to show their might at the Sham Shui Po Sports Ground on 13 and 20 November 2006. The House athletics team members, striving to do the best for their Houses, set a total number of nine new records on our Annual Sports Day this year.

Banners and flags were flying around the spectator stands while the cheering teams of the four Houses—Red, Green, Yellow and Blue, were shouting encouragement to their athletes. Chants of House slogans were inundating the sports ground while athletes were capturing an extra point for the glory of their Houses.

Girls' overall champions were Kristine April Castro Wong

(5C) in Grade A, Poon Sze-wan Shamime Akhtar (3E) in Grade B and Poon So-man (2E) in Grade C. Sagar Rai (3B) captured the Boys' overall champion in Grade A, whereas Thapa Durga (2B) came first in Grade B and So Chi-on (1F) in Grade C.

At the end, Green House was once again the overall champion with 734 points. Blue House came second, trailing only by 68 points. Yellow House and Green House won the championship of the Cheering Competition with their fantastic dance performance and loud slogans.

The highlight of the event was the parent-teacher relay in which students and cheering teams cheered at the top of their voices when the Principal, Mr. Fung, was the first to dash past the finish line.



There was much applause when our guest-of-honour Ms. Rita Chen, Chief School Development Officer of Yau Tsim Mong District, addressed the school and presented the prizes at the closing ceremony.

New records set in 2006-07

Event	Competitor	Record
100 m Girls Grade A	Kristine April Castro Wong (Blue)	15"04
200 m Girls Grade A	Kristine April Castro Wong (Blue)	31"49
100 m Girls Grade B	Poon Sze-wan Shamime Akhtar (Blue)	14"98
200 m Girls Grade B	Poon Sze-wan Shamime Akhtar (Blue)	32"08
400 m Girls Grade B	Lo Sin-lan (Red)	1'15"91
400 m Girls Grade C	Mak Lai-fai (Blue)	1'26"80
100 m Boys Grade C	So Chi-on (Green)	13"11
Shot Put Girls Grade B	Precious Gem Medina Oconer (Red)	8.69m
Shot Put Boys Grade C	Thapa Himal (Blue)	9.17m



School Picnic

The weather was perfect for a picnic, not too cold or too sunny, just right. The students of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) took advantage of the good weather to make the most of the School Picnic Day on Thursday 21 December 2006. Most students enjoyed such events as hiking, cooking food over a campfire, playing games with their friends, and walking through the nature trails, hills or countryside. There were a number of differ-

ent locations for the picnic, a different place for each form. The school arranged coaches to take the students to and from the picnic site and to help make the experience a shared experience from start to finish. In each case, the students were treated to a full day of outdoor fun and learning more about nature.

In addition to studying regular academic subjects, our students are encouraged to participate in other positive learning activities, extra-curricular clubs and school outings. By engaging in social and group activities such as the class picnic, students have fun while developing social skills, learning more about nature and places around Hong Kong as well as get some exercise and fresh air.



FORM	PICNIC LOCATION
S1	Hok Tau (Sheung Shui)
S2	Pak Tam Chung
S3	Lau Shui Heung
S4	Shek O Beach
S5	St. Stephen's Beach

Diwali / Deepawali—Festival of Lights

The name of Diwali name comes from the Sanskrit word *deepavali*, "row of lights". This is perhaps the most well-known of the Indian and Nepali festivals: it is celebrated throughout India and Nepal, as well as by Hindu communities throughout the world. Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness.



Homes around the world are lit with cheery earthenware lamps (small oil lamps) called diyas. The exchange of sweets and the explosion of fireworks invariably accompany the celebration of the festival. As with other Indian festivals, Diwali signifies many different things such as wealth and prosperity to people across the country.

This year Deepawali festival was on Saturday 21 October 2006. We celebrated Deepawali in our school one day earlier. Students gathered in the



school hall and there were lots of sweets and food for everyone. The whole school, including the non-Hindu students, was in a festive mood. We all sang and danced and enjoyed the mouth-watering Indian food along with teachers and our Principal, Mr. Fung. Celebrating the festival at school really gave students a chance to develop a sense of belonging to their own culture and to feel the warmth of our vibrant school.

Eid

In Muslim culture there are two main events—Eid-ul-fitar and Eid-ul-Adha. Eid-ul-fitar means breaking of fast. It is celebrated on the first day of



Shawaal, the tenth month in the Muslim calendar, to mark the end of a month of long fast. This year, students got two gifts from the school. One was a holiday on 24 October 2006, the day of Eid and the second was an Eid celebration in school on 26, 27, and 31 October 2006. For the celebration girls put Hina on their hands and brought food from their homes to have a mixed lunch together. Boys were more excited than

girls. They sang songs and did Bhangra on Punjabi songs. All students were thankful to the school that they could have an excellent Eid celebration due to the support of the school management.



Lantern Riddles

Everyone could feel the Mid-Autumn festive spirit in the Student Activity Centre at lunchtime on 4 October. To provide students with a fun programme and to enhance non-Chinese students' knowledge of the traditions of

this festival, the Chinese Club has organized an activity called "Lantern Riddles". The event turned out to be a great delight shared by the Principal, Mr. Fung, the Assistant Principals, teachers and more than a hundred students. The room was decorated with ornamental lanterns of different figures and colours hanging everywhere with a riddle attached to each lantern. Participants just needed to write down the answers they knew on an answer sheet and to go to the designated counter to have their answers checked. Candies, snacks and small prizes were awarded to those

who got a certain number of answers correct. It was a good event to test the wits of teachers and students, who kept walking around the room solving the riddles and sharing the joy of this festive season together.



15th Parents-Teachers' Association Annual General Meeting cum Parents' Night

The 15th PTA AGM commenced shortly after 6 p.m. All chatter and movement ceased as the AGM got underway. The school principal, Mr. Fung, started proceedings by presenting his welcoming address during which he stated that mutual trust and support between the parents and teachers was essential for the good development of the school. The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Syed Jamil Ragbi, then presented the annual report for the year 2005-2006. The highlights of the year were the annual outing to Kam Tin and Inspiration Lake, two parenting talks, a tennis training course, the Lunch Box Subcommittee and the Readathon, which raised approximately \$4,000 to buy books for the school library.

The minutes of the 14th AGM were then confirmed and Honorary Secretary, Ms. Hung Fei-kei presented



Cast your votes, please!

the statement of accounts. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the members of the outgoing committee as were souvenirs to Mr. Ragbi and Mr. Batra for their service and dedication to the school as the PTA Chairman and Vice-chairman.

Next were the proposed amendments to the PTA Constitution to bring it in line with the new School Management Committee Constitution. Voting was by secret ballot. With a total of 153 members voting in favour and 6 members voting against, the proposed amendments were endorsed and passed.



Mrs Gopalakrishnan receiving a certificate of appreciation from Mr. Ragbi.

The elections of the evening got underway: the PTA Executive

Committee Parent-members Election, the election of an Honorary Auditor for the PTA and the SMC Parent Representative Election. Mrs. Gopalakrishnan, Mrs. Ann-Marie Parkes, Ms. Suan Thompson and Mr. Eddy Fok were elected to the PTA Executive Committee. Mr. Batra was elected as the PTA Honorary Auditor for the year 2006-2007. Mrs. Gopalakrishnan was elected as the SMC parent representative.

Before the 15th PTA AGM came to a close, members were invited to make voluntary donations, which totaled approximately \$5,000. The second part of the evening – Parents' Night – consisted of teacher-parent conferences during which parents learnt more about their children's progress and received the first term test report sheets.

All in all, the evening, which was lengthy and jam-packed with activity, was a great success. Everyone left for home ready to start the much-awaited weekend!

PTA Executive Committee Members, 2006-2007

Parent Members

OFFICE HELD	NAME
<i>Chairlady</i>	Mrs. Kanaklatha Gopalakrishnan
<i>Vice Chairlady</i>	Mrs. Patricia Bernadette Mein Smith
Honorary Secretary	Mrs. Ann-Marie Parkes
Honorary Treasurer	Ms. Cheng Lai Ling
Committee Member	Mrs. Gemma M. Oconer
Committee Member	Mr. Eddy Fok
Committee Member	Mr. Ong Eng Hock
Committee Member	Ms. Suan Cordia Thompson
Advisor to the PTA	Mr. Syed Jamil Ragbi
Advisor to the PTA & Honorary Auditor	Mr. G. S. Batra

Teacher Members

OFFICE HELD	NAME
Vice-chairman & Principal	Mr. Fung Kam-cheung
Committee Member & Assistant Principal	Ms. Yuen Ka-chung
Committee Member & Assistant Principal	Mrs. Tsang Wu Yuk-kwan
Honorary Secretary	Ms. Josephine Chung
Honorary Treasurer	Ms. Hung Fei-kei
Committee Member	Ms. Sham Suk-yee
Committee Member	Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar

“Real Friends” Project 2006/07

Many of us may say that we have a lot of “real friends”, but how many have friends that we can look up to and learn from? Seeing as we live in a modern society where there are so many different influences around us, it is important to develop a clear and positive self-identity. That’s why our school has organized the “Real Friends Project”.

Our school and the Hong Kong Police Force have come together to provide students with the opportunity of interacting with police volunteers dubbed the “Real Friends Project”. The aim of this project is to encourage students to bond with “healthy”

adults (the police volunteers) through various activities so as to provide a positive influence for them. By getting to know these police volunteers, hopefully students can benefit from this encouraging environment and develop the essential social qualities and skills, and also a sense of responsibility and good citizenship.

The project was originally planned to kick off with a speech by a police officer and our Principal, Mr. Fung, at the launching ceremony on 21 November 2006 in the school playground, followed by friendly basketball and volleyball matches. However, due to the bad weather, the ceremony had to



be held in the school hall. Although nothing can beat a good old ball game as an ice-breaking activity, the fact that the friendly matches had to be cancelled didn’t get in the way of our welcoming the students and police officers to get to know each other, as lots of them were already exchanging conversations and sharing experiences right after the



opening speech.

Throughout the year, around 50 students will have wonderful chances to socialize with these police volunteers on occasions such as visiting the Elderly Centre, the Million Walk where students can have a chance to contribute to society together with the police, or a talk by Dr. Pet where students can meet the police pets that help our police force with their difficult jobs. There are also sporting events including different kinds of friendly sports matches, and for those who do not particularly like ball games, there are two hiking events where the police volunteers will teach students some basic map reading and hiking skills.

Hopefully, students can make the most out of this project by making “Friends” with the police volunteers and learning from their valuable life experiences.

Dress Special Day

No school tie? Not tucking in your shirt? Weren’t prefects and discipline

teachers watching you? Don’t worry: on 29 September 2006, students could break away from the boundaries of school uniform for a while and wear casual clothes to school, as the school Guidance and Counselling Committee organized a Dress Special Day on that day. The event aimed at raising fund for the local charity **Community Chest**, with the theme “Show your care by what you wear” this time. Students and staff

were invited to make a donation of \$5 or more in order to dress casually and creatively. With the concerted effort of the whole school, a handsome amount of \$8685.70 was raised and duly passed to the Chest to support family and child welfare services.



Day Camp for S1 students

On three separate days of 28 November, 11 and 12 December 2006, the six classes of S1 students took turns to take part in an exhausting but exciting outing in Silvermine Bay, Lantau Island. It was a day camp on the theme "cultural harmony" co-organized by the school Guidance and Counselling Committee and Hong Kong Playground Association.

It is very important for our students, coming from different ethnic groups and being in a multi-racial school, to learn to appreciate other cultures and build a harmonious relationship with one another. This camp aimed at developing trust and peer

support among our students, as well as enhancing their problem-solving skills through communicating, cooperating and interacting with one another.

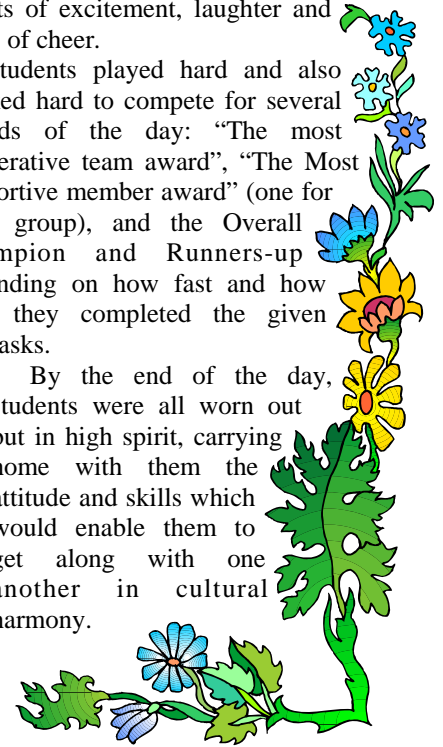
During the day, students took part in a lot of "cooperation activities" such as "Clap and catch", "Reach for the sky", "Trolley" and "Across the bridge" — all names self-explanatory if you use a little imagination. One would see students bumping into one another trying to catch a ball, or climbing on a "human mountain" like acrobats to reach higher. These games filled the campsite with smells of sweat but also



shouts of excitement, laughter and claps of cheer.

Students played hard and also worked hard to compete for several awards of the day: "The most cooperative team award", "The Most supportive member award" (one for each group), and the Overall Champion and Runners-up depending on how fast and how well they completed the given tasks.

By the end of the day, students were all worn out but in high spirit, carrying home with them the attitude and skills which would enable them to get along with one another in cultural harmony.



Cricket Team 2006-2007



This year, for the first time, our school has become Champion in the Inter-school Senior Cricket Competition, winning the "Ted Wilson Trophy". In the past few years we were always the First Runner-up in senior competitions. This year our school's Senior Team did a good job and finally the hard work and determination of

our boys, along with their teachers-in-charge, Mr. Kumar and Mr. Iqbal, paid off.

Just for the record, this is the first time our school has won this trophy since it was introduced in 1976-77.



Congratulations to our Senior Cricket Team on winning the "Ted Wilson Trophy" this year.



Christmas Talent Show

On 22 December 2006 the students of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) were treated to some very memorable and entertaining presentations, acts and gigs done by our very own students! This year our school had not one, but two, school talent



shows: one for the junior and one for the senior students. Both shows were very successful and congratulations are in order for the organizers and participants. What a great way to end 2006!

The first Christmas Talent Show was for S3-S5. This involved a number of musical performances by 6 different bands composed of students. Then came the lucky draw where some students received a special Christmas present from our very own Santa. After the

lucky draw there was a beautiful song done by a duet, followed by five dance

performances including Hindi dances, Oriental dances and modern dances as well. All were quite enjoyable. After the judges had considered all the talented performances the winners were presented with their awards. Congratulations go out to all performances on a job well done.

Next the S1 and S2 students had their chance. Their Christmas Talent Show also started out with some budding bands and these three groups kept the audience well entertained.

Following this came the lucky draw where yet more presents were handed out to the fortunate students selected by jolly old Saint Nick. Next came two beautiful songs as well as a terrific Oriental



dance performance. Following the judges' decision and prize presentation, the talent show ended with some inspirational Christmas songs sung by our school choir.

Both talent shows exhibited lots of energy, enthusiasm and some very talented individuals and groups. We thank everyone for their contributions and eagerly look forward to the next school talent show.



The 58th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival

The Schools Speech Festival is an annual inter-school event in which students join to show off their talents in language and performing. This year, our School made 48 entries in the competitions in English and 21 in Chinese.

Since September, participating students spent their free time during recess, lunchtime or after school on practising their poem, article or even drama script, polishing up their pronunciation, intonation, facial expressions and movements.

Weeks of hard work paid off: most candidates did well enough in the competitions to get 75 marks or more, qualifying for a Certificate of Proficiency or even Merit. The results of some students were outstanding:

English solo verse speaking

Athena Nicomedes (1F): 2nd

Ilyn Joy Bartido (2F): 1st

Francisco Deniece Guentes (2F): 2nd

Tsui Yuen-ying (2F): Co-3rd

Chinese solo verse speaking

Leung Ka-yau (1F): 2nd

Chinese prose speaking

Ngai Tsz-leung (2D): 3rd



Champion Ilyn Joy of 2F gave an expressive reading of Peter Dixon's poem "Seasons" as one of the performances on the School Speech Day.

Congratulations to these students and their teachers! Please keep up your enthusiasm and hard work!



Special Events / Activities

Event/Activity	Committee/Organization	Date	Target Students
U-Club activities: Drama, dance, visual arts and film-making workshops, war game, visits, barbecue	Health & Sex Education Committee, Discipline Committee, Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	Whole year	All students
“Real Friends” Project with the Hong Kong Police Force	Guidance & Counseling Committee	Whole year	All students
Old Books Recycling Scheme	Guidance & Counseling Committee	4/09/2006, 5/09/2006	All students
Club Promotion Days	ECA Committee	12/09/2006, 13/09/2006	All students
Mathematics Q & A tutorials	Mathematics Department	19/09/2006 – 21/12/2006	All students
Volunteer service: “Environmental Friendly Day—New Record”	Guidance & Counseling Committee	24/09/2006	Volunteers
Basic guitar class	Guidance & Counseling Committee	25/09/2006 – 11/06/2007	All students
“One Person One Plant” Campaign	Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Environmental Education Committee	10/2006 – 2/2007	Whole school
Donation Day	Junior Police Call, Environmental Education Committee	(3/10/2006 – 12/10/2006) 15/10/2006	Whole school



U-Club activity: Opening ceremony



Club Promotion Days



“Real Friends Project”



Volunteer Service: “Environmental Friendly Day—New Record”



“One Person One Plant” Campaign



U-Club activity: War game

Special Events / Activities (Continued)

Event/Activity	Committee/Organization	Date	Target Students
“Making a Rainbow Life”— support programme for non-Chinese speaking and returnee children	Guidance & Counseling Committee	9/10/2006 – 29/01/2007	New arrivals
Mathematics Olympiad	Mathematics Department	10/10/2006 – 13/12/2006	S.1 – S.3 students
Life skills education camp	Vocational Training Centre, Careers Committee	15/10/2006	S4 students taking COC – Hotel Operations
Day camp on national education	Moral and Civic Education Committee	18/10/2006	S.1D, S.1E and S.1F
Job Shadowing Programme	Junior Achievement HK, Careers Committee	14/11/2006	S4, S5 students
Flag selling for Community Chest	Guidance & Counseling Committee, Community Youth Club	18/11/2006	Volunteers
Visit to Hong Kong Art Museum	Art Club, French Club	30/11/2006	Club members
ECA Leadership Training Course	ECA Committee	30/11/2006 – 14/12/2006	All club leaders
Visit to IVE (Haking Wong)	Careers Committee	1/12/2006	S5 students
Anti-Drug Week (Opening Ceremony, exhibitions, games and S4 Anti-Drug Workshop)	Health & Sex Education Committee, Discipline Committee, Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service, Kelly Support Group	18/12/2006 – 22/12/06	All students
43 rd Schools Dance Festival (Jazz Dance)	Education and Manpower Bureau, Modern Dance Team	13/01/2007	Modern Dance Team members
43 rd Schools Dance Festival (Oriental Dance)	Education and Manpower Bureau, Oriental Dance Team	26/01/2007	Oriental Dance Team members
Field trip to the Ramsars Wetland (Mai Po)	Environmental Education Committee	31/01/2007	S.2F



Life Skills Education Camp



Anti-Drug Week



“Making a Rainbow Life”—
support programme for non-Chinese
speaking and returnee children



Flag selling for Community Chest



Visit to IVE (Haking Wong)



Day camp on national education

Special Features

On 14 November 2006, **Carl Carabio** of 4A spent a day in a renowned investment company, observing what its Director-General did on a typical (busy) day. This hands-on experience in the working world was made possible, and provided free of charge, under the “Job Shadowing” programme co-organized by the School Careers Committee and Junior Achievement Hong Kong, a charitable non-profit organization. Carl is now sharing the insights he has gained from the day.



A Day With Mr. Mike Rowse

“One thing I find interesting about my job is I can contribute to the community.

More companies investing in Hong Kong, more sense of satisfaction.”

- Mike Rowse

In case you haven't heard about InvestHK, it is a renowned firm which encourages corporations from different countries around the world to come to Hong Kong and invest. I was one of the lucky ones to be given



Mr. Mike Rowse presenting a certificate to me.

the opportunity to have a “peek” inside the realm of business. This special scheme, “Job Shadowing” was sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities and organised by Junior Achievement Hong Kong. To give you a brief explanation about Job Shadowing, it is basically a program in which students are required to “shadow” (follow, rather) experienced achievers from various job aspects and observe their usual routine. In my case, luckily, I had the chance to be Mr. Mike Rowse's “shadow”. If you haven't heard of him, he is the Director-General of InvestHK and happens to work in connection with Mr. Donald Tsang, our Chief Executive. In short, he is renowned in Hong Kong. Now allow me to share with you my day at InvestHK.

On 14 November 2006, I had to be at InvestHK, situated at Pacific Place, Admiralty before 9:00 a.m. to attend Mr. Rowse's first meeting of the day. I arrived before 8:30 a.m. I was greeted by Mr. Rowse's Senior Personal Secretary, Mrs. Anita Lau, who gave me

a short briefing about Mr. Rowse's agenda on that day. To my greatest surprise, he had to attend more than 5 group meetings, several individual meetings and a private lunch with absolutely no break at all! It was then that I thought to myself: “Hey, this is business. No pain, no gain!”

Then it was the moment of truth, meeting Mr. Rowse face-to-face. I entered his enormous office, which reminded me of a suite. Mr. Rowse is a man in his late 60s with a grand stature. I introduced myself and likewise he did the same thing. By 9:00 a.m., the first meeting with the heads from different divisions progressed. I felt quite tense because I was surrounded with people who have had experience in management for several years. But at the same time, I also felt fortunate because not many students could have the chance to witness such an important meeting with the D.G. of InvestHK.

The meeting ended at around 10:15 a.m. and individual meetings with his

colleagues began. By 11:00 a.m., his second meeting commenced. At around 12:30 p.m., I had lunch with his secretary at Dan Ryan's. I could have had lunch with Mr. Rowse but due to special circumstances, he had a private lunch for a confidential discussion. His third and fourth meetings started at 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. respectively. During these two meetings, I noticed that most staff were dressed formally. The ambience was serious and everyone acted in a business-like manner. The last meeting of the day with delegates from the U.K. started at 5:15 p.m. The meeting ended at 6:00 p.m., 30 minutes later than my original schedule. But hey, it was worth it!

This experience is very meaningful to me in preparation for my future career, and for that, I am thankful for Job Shadowing. This program should continue for the benefit of students, to give them the motivation to learn more about the world of work and to help them decide for a future career.

Work should never be mistaken for punishment or torture. It is for our own benefit to broaden our mind and to derive pleasure out of it.

Carl Carabio, 4A



In July 2006, our teacher **Ms Wong Pik-wah** and **Ma Hing-kin Aylwin** of 2A took part in an exchange programme, in which they spent a fortnight in Singapore, and learnt more about teaching and learning in the country, as well as experienced the multi-racial lifestyles and cultures there. 4 months later, they took up the role of hosts when their Singaporean counterparts came to Hong Kong for their exploration of our city. Ms Wong is now sharing their experience in this programme.



The 6th Hong Kong-Singapore Exchange Programme

The 6th Hong Kong-Singapore Exchange Programme – Singapore Phase started from 16 July and ended on 30 July. The Hong Kong delegate comprised of 7 teachers and 60 students from 9 government secondary schools. Aylwin and I were two of the participants. He was lucky enough to be appointed as the representative to deliver a speech in the Opening Ceremony on behalf of all Hong Kong students.



Aylwin (right) and I (second left) with our host family in Singapore.

The school we attached to in Singapore was Gang Eng Seng School (GESS). My first day in GESS reminded me of a shot in “Mission Impossible II”—I had to use my fingerprint for access to the General Office and Staff Rooms! Apart from advanced technology, what impressed me most was the hospitality of the Principal, teachers and students of GESS. With the arrangement by my buddy teacher, Mr. Richard Leong, I had observed many lessons, including English, Chinese and Mathematics, with much insight gained.

GESS is a learning institution which incorporates both work and play to tap on students’ multiple intelligences and to engage all students in active learning. During our short stay in Singapore, students had chances to learn through various educational activities such as visiting the Heritage Trail, Singapore Science Centre and Republic Polytechnic, participating in a school-based

programme “Racial Harmony Commemoration: and an impressive and eye-opening grand concert by the Greenridge Secondary School Symphonic Band. Teachers also had the privilege of visiting “Classrooms of the Future”, “DNA Centre”, “Hwa Chong Institution” which aims at nurturing leaders, etc, to widen our global horizons in education.

As teachers, although we have sacrificed part of our summer holiday participating in this exchange programme, we have gained a lot more than words can express, for instance, the acquaintances we made with Singapore teachers, the friendship and team spirit we built among ourselves, the insight and enlightenment we gained in education, and the sharing of happy times and hard times.... In our lives there may be many memorable trips. But, there won’t be many occasions that we can have so much to see, to feel, to taste, to learn and to reflect.

A fortnight is not long enough to know a place in depth but sufficient to kindle curiosity to know more about it or even the world around. This trip will become a seed in our minds that will keep growing.

In November, it was our turn to extend our hospitality back to the Singapore delegate, when they flew to Hong Kong and stayed here from 13



Aylwin (left) toasting with another student participant in the Farewell Ceremony at Kwun Tong Government Secondary School.



We took our Singaporean friends to Hong Kong Disneyland.

November to 21 November. We had designed a variety of programmes to make their stay here fruitful and memorable. The following are some highlights:

- ❖ Sightseeing at Stanley, the Peak, the Golden Bauhinia Square, Tsim Sha Tsui, etc
- ❖ Visit to Hong Kong Disneyland, Shatin Heritage Museum, the University of Hong Kong, Infrastructure Exhibition in Central, etc
- ❖ Attending the Sports Day of our school and Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School

As the Chinese proverb says, “Travelling ten thousand miles is worth more than reading ten thousand books”. The 6th Hong Kong-Singapore Exchange Programme has undoubtedly achieved its aim. As reflected in their reports, the Hong Kong students believe that they have got a more profound understanding of Singapore. For their personal growth, they have learned to be more independent. The programme has also provided them the chance to get acquaintance with their counterparts in Singapore and therefore they have been able to practise their social skills in a culturally different context. More importantly, they have fostered international friendships with their buddies.

Ms Wong Pik-wah

One of our school's uniformed groups, 601 Squadron of Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps, was established in 2003. The objectives of this uniformed group are to introduce aviation education and discipline training to our students. Students benefit much from the training. In 2005, one of our cadet members, **Christian Warren Kiesthardt**, won the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators (GAPAN) Flying Scholarships 2005. He was one of the only two awardees of the Scholarships in Hong Kong. Upon receiving the Scholarships, Christian received pilot training for 2 summers in Adelaide, Australia. This year he completed the training course and obtained the Private Pilot Licence for Fixed Wing Aircraft. Christian is now sharing his experience in Australia. (This article has appeared in Pulse, the EMB Newsletter.)

Mr. Chan Vai-sam, Teacher-in-charge of 601 Squadron

Flying the Australian Skies

In 2002, The Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps (HKACC) set up a 'Flight' at our school. I was eager to join, partly because I had not joined any other activities, and partly because I wanted to learn something different. And I did! The Air Cadet is not only about foot drills and parades. It is also about learning a lot of different things, be it aviation, leadership skills or self-discipline. It can all be learned there. Lucky enough, my school arranged to have a flight, which has now grown into a full-fledged squadron—The 601 Squadron.



In early 2005, I was given an application form for a Youth Flying Scholarship. The scholarship was organized by a British guild, the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators (GAPAN). The Air Cadets supplied the applicants and did the first test. The other tests were conducted by GAPAN representatives, as well as at the Dragonair House.

Before that day, I knew nothing of GAPAN or the scholarship. So I went into the first test, a written test, slightly prepared. Needless to say, it nearly turned into a disaster.

However, I was lucky, as I was the last to be chosen for the next selection. Out of 15, 8 were selected.

At the end of all the tests and interviews, only 2 were selected, out of 15! I was one of them.



The other successful applicant was a girl, who was a university student. I was only 16.

After arranging everything, we both packed our bags, and went to Australia, in the middle of the summer holidays, for our flight training.

The flying school, Adelaide Flight Training Centre, was situated in the middle of Adelaide. It was a nice campus, and had everything needed, sufficient for one to live there for a longer period of time.

The most striking thing about the whole school, however, was its warmth and friendliness. Everyone was friendly to one another. Everything was calm and tranquil. Even though there were planes circling overhead, it was a very quiet and relaxing place to be.

The instructors were also very friendly. In general, they tended to treat you as a friend, while still keeping up a good teacher-instructor relationship. It was a very good method, and helped new cadets adjust quickly.

I stayed in the training centre for two stays, in summers 2005 and 2006, each around six weeks long. During my first stay there, I learned the basics of flying and aircraft handling. I had a number of written tests and one flight test, and eventually passed my General Flying Progress Test (GFPT).

The second time I went to Adelaide, I had fewer flights than during my first stay. Less than half actually; however, during that time, I learned more about flying, navigating and all the necessary knowledge than what I had learned for my GFPT. The flights were much longer, my second Solo-Navigation lasted around 3.5 hours, and I got more experience. For the first time I actually had to land at a different aerodrome! Not only that, I also had to get there,

without losing my way, or worse, becoming a hazard to other aircrafts! The second stay was a little more challenging. Fortunately, I passed all the tests, and now hold a Private Pilots Licence!

Upon returning to Hong Kong, my friends were more than eager to hear my stories. To say the least, winning the Youth Flying Scholarship was an incredible experience. I have never had so much fun before! Being allowed to fly is incredible, exhilarating and scary all together, all at once.

I am more than grateful to having such an experience, and am looking forward to continuing on as a career pilot.

Either way, I will treasure this unforgettable experience forever.

**Christian Warren Kiesthardt, 5A
(2005/2006)**



From left to right: Mr Chan Vai-sam, Christian and our Principal, Mr Fung

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