



HILLTOP REVIEW

Volume 9, Issue 1 - July 2012

ELCHK Lutheran Secondary School

From the Principal's Desk

Another successful school year has passed. We are proud of the hard work of our teachers and students and are excited and optimistic in what lies ahead.

Students today learn in an increasingly competitive and fast-paced environment and they benefit from multi-disciplinary approaches to learning. For the second year in a row, our school has been involved in the Language Across Curriculum (LAC) scheme which, through teacher collaboration and professional development, aims to bring English language support and teaching to non-language subjects such as history, geography and integrated science.

There are many benefits to this scheme. More comprehensive school-based materials are produced for students through the joint efforts of teachers. Teachers are able to tailor materials to the needs and learning diversities of our students. The subject-related English language materials are more pertinent, relevant and useful to our students than ever before.

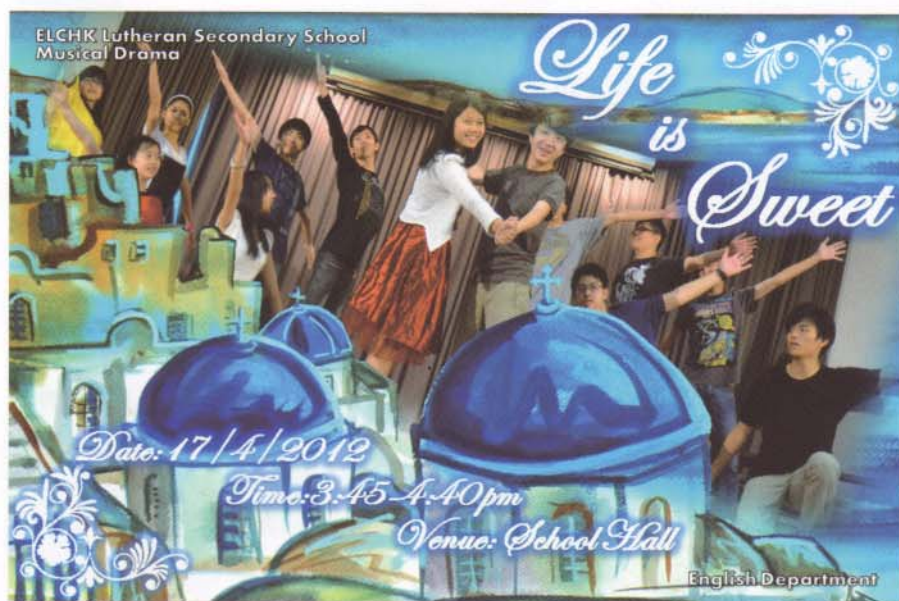
Our teachers remain as committed as ever to the learning and needs of our students. This year, they have been involved in professional development workshops to strengthen and reinforce teaching and learning strategies, as well as developing effective materials which can be taught across the curriculum. Subject teachers will carefully prepare and design their materials with the support and input of English teachers. All teachers involved in the scheme will frequently meet to follow up, reflect and evaluate the materials and teaching effectiveness in order to maximize the student's learning.

We endeavor to teach our students that like the increasingly interconnected nature of our world, the knowledge in the subjects which they study is also interconnected. We are eager and excited to continue the LAC programme next year.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this year's *Hilltop Review*.



Principal Kevin Liang



INSIDE:

Life is Sweet A2-A3

Memories of the Year A6-A13

A Lesson of Life A4

I miss you, America! A15



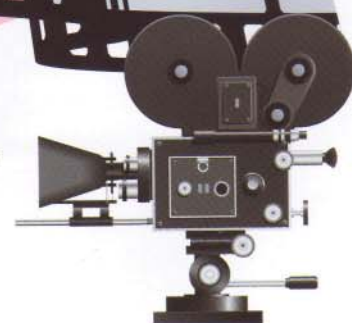


Musical Drama

Life is Sweet



Our talented student actors receive a standing ovation from the audience, thanks to their beautiful voices, colourful costumes and impressive acting skills.



Life is Sweet; Sweet is Life

Jai Ho! The cast and crew share the joy of success of the drama production 'Life is Sweet'.



This was my second time joining our school's Annual Musical Drama. It was a very memorable experience in my school life.

In February, I decided to join the musical because I love drama and I wouldn't have the opportunity to participate in it in S5 and S6. When I started to practise for the musical, I felt so bored. I was just waiting and waiting for my turn and my part. I had no chance to step on the stage.

After that, I also needed to practise 3 different dances: Summer Nights, tap dancing and Jai Ho. I loved Jai Ho the most among these 3 dances. Although it was quite difficult for me, I never gave up! Jai Ho is a song and dance from India and it was the most exciting dance in this musical!

I met many good friends in the musical. In this drama, I had some friends who

always supported me like brothers. We were like a 'big boy club'. Our school life can be hectic and stressful but we support one another when someone needs help. Besides meeting some new friends, we became quite close. I love them so much because 'Life is Sweet'. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to Ms Wen and teachers for giving me a chance to join this year's musical.



Celia Chui and John Ma (2nd and 3rd from the left) make the drama production impressive with their rhythmic dances and colourful outfits.

John Ma (4A)



Honorable guests Ms Florence Yip (left), Senior School Development Officer from the Education Bureau, Mrs Mercedes Woo (middle), Chairperson of the Parent-Teacher Association and Principal Kevin Liang grace us with their presence on a night to remember.

This year was my first year in joining our school's musical. This year's musical was called 'Life is Sweet'. I really enjoyed the days that I spent in preparing for the musical. I met a lot of friends there. We always played, danced, sang, laughed and cried together. We all became best friends!

The show premiered on 5 May 2012. I was very nervous. My fellow performers told me to do my best, but I could see that they were very nervous too. They were great friends and we enjoyed the show. After the show, we were very happy but after a few minutes we felt sad because we realized that we would not dance together anymore and that we wouldn't see one another every day like before. I hope that our friendship will never fade! I hope my friends won't forget that we were like a family!

Celia Chui (2A)

NETWORK SPEAKING: A LESSON OF LIFE



Providing ample strategies to enhance our English speaking abilities, our school held a joint-school activity on 17 December inviting several students from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to share their learning experience with us. It was a valuable opportunity in which I met some eloquently spoken students. The entire audience was impressed with the fruitful content of their sharing and their English fluency in their presentation.

The students were dressed professionally. The men wore fitted suits and the women wore makeup. Although the speakers were at most three years older than us, they seemed to be much more mature. Arriving at the school hall ten minutes before the start of the presentation, I was lucky to hear the conversation between my English teacher and them. My English teacher, who has long been my idol since he first started teaching me because of his good English, chatted with them naturally. There was no hesitation in their conversation, as if English was their first language. I was totally shocked. I had never imagined that these students could speak as fluently as they did. Not only was their pronunciation natural, but their points and ideas were also like native speakers.

If learning English through short stories and news is a good means, hearing what the HKU students said is then a short cut to improve English. Their sharing included a variety of suggestions and strategies, from improving English to tackling exams. Most of them were so useful that I could see my improvement in my work within a few days. Their sharing was very valid and practical compared with the suggestions given by my peers. If we did not understand what they said, we could ask for a more detailed explanation in the question-and-answer session. I grasped this opportunity and asked them a question which I, as well as many students, wanted to know:

‘How can we improve our intonation and pronunciation?’ I asked courageously.

It was my English teacher who gave me the chance to ask this question. Although I was nervously shaking, the students patiently answered my question. Their patience and generosity are worth our respect. I realized that their sharing was more than a lecture. It was a lesson from which we learnt how to live. Doing well in English is not enough. Instead, we have to be patient and willing to share our opinions. Their sharing showed how important it is. I told myself that I should work harder in order to reach their level of fluency, though I have a long way to go. The presentation was indeed a valuable lesson which impressed me and the students a lot.

Paper Wong (6B)



BA & B.Ed. students from the University of Hong Kong share their views on how to improve their pronunciation and speaking exam techniques in the Networking Speaking activity. Our students benefit a lot from the constructive feedback of the teacher-assessors on their performance in the oral practice.

From LSS to Kei To: A Revisit to my Primary School

Once I entered Kei To School, my former primary school, I felt special. All of my memories from my primary school life came back to me.

10 September was the open day of Kei To School. On that day, I helped host a game stall called 'Healthy Lifestyle'.

'Oh!' was my first comment when I arrived at the schoolyard. I was surprised that the school had changed so much! The playground and hall seemed new. What was most different was the playground. The banyan, which had been at the school for many years, was spilt. I really miss seeing it!

Chatting with my primary school teacher, we were gathered together and were marshaled into different jobs. I was marshaled to help the game stall. It was not as easy to do as I thought.

At first, everything was going smoothly but we later met with some frustration. For example, some wayward players did not follow our rules to play the game, as they were not good at English. Recognizing this, we used some simple English words and gave them some hints.

Whether we were the players or helpers, we learned a lot through this activity. Although it was quite hard work on that day, it was a valuable experience. At least I could remember my old memories as well as making new and unforgettable ones.

Richard Hon (4B)



Family Day: Principal Liang demonstrates to his son how to play the game at our game stall.

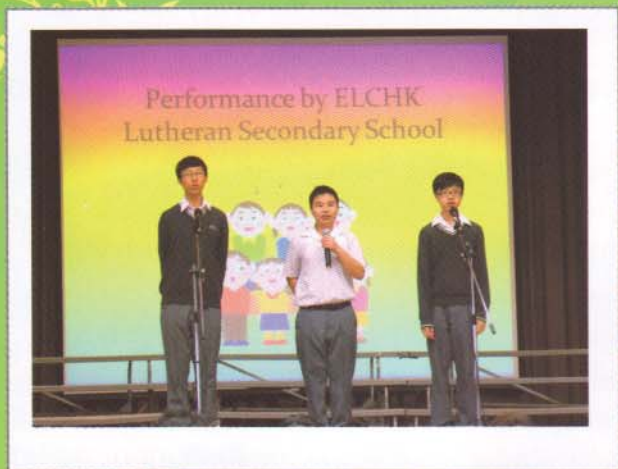


A great success: Our dedicated student helpers serve as school ambassadors to promote our school on Open Day of Kei To School.



Memories of the Year

English Day Camp 2011



Left: Our S3 students impress the audience with their beautiful voices.

Right: Lester Yeung (left) demonstrates his leadership skills in the Picture Relay activity.

English Week 2012 S2 & S4 Story-telling Competitions



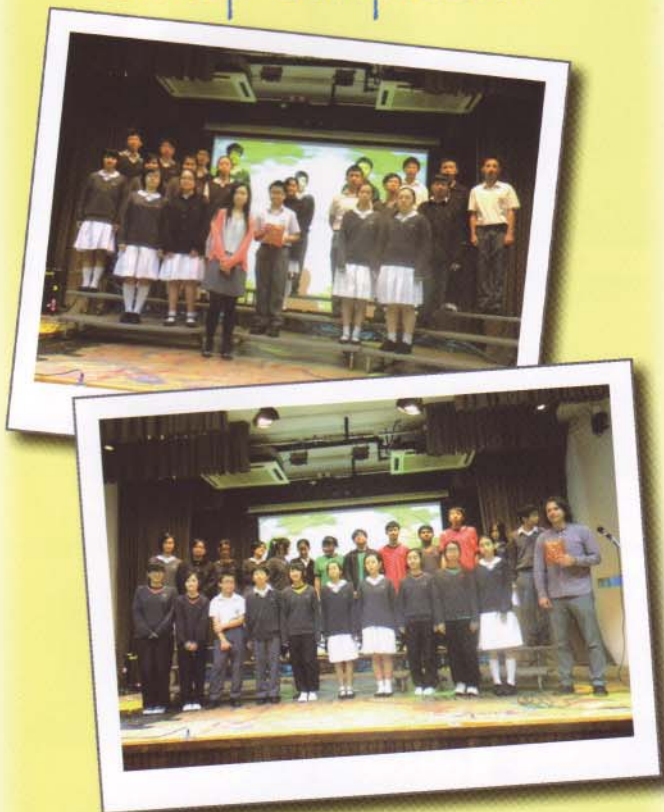
S2 and S4 students tell famous short stories with attractive costumes and colourful backdrops.

Solo Verse



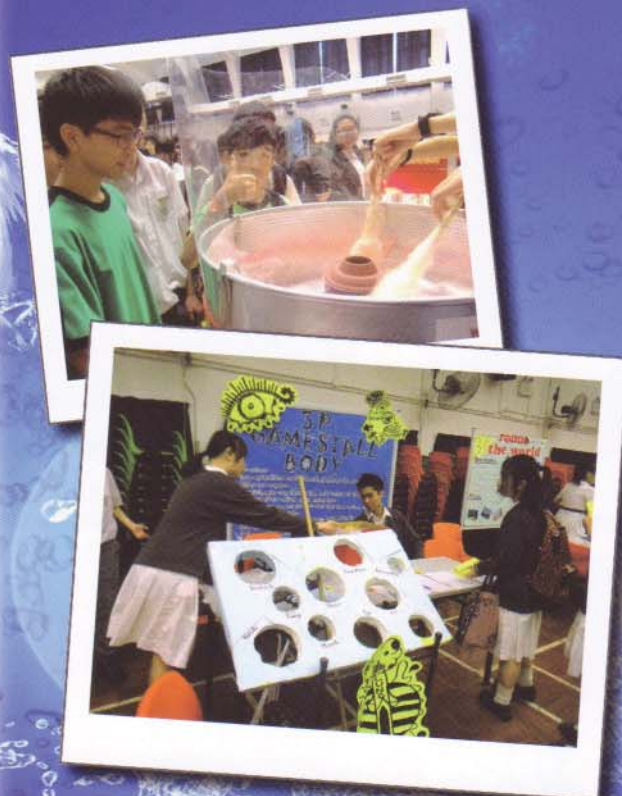
Principal Liang (right) presents a certificate to Lily Kong in appreciation of her outstanding performance (2nd runner-up) in the Annual Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Festival 2011.

English Week 2012 S1 Rap Competition



Ms Li (top picture: in pink) and Mr Schedlich (bottom picture: right most) are impressed with the outstanding performance of the S1 students in the Rap Competition.

English Week 2012 S3 Game Stalls Activities



Students queue up for popcorn and cotton candy after visiting the booths in the school hall.

English Week 2012 S3 Singing Contest



The S3 Singing Contest, filled with great music and lovely voices, is a highlight of this year's English activities.

Teaching English poems in Lianzhou, China



Ms Wen and her S4 students conduct voluntary teaching in a primary school in Lianzhou, China.

Exchange Programme to Canada 2012



We're on top of the world: Mr Wong (right) and his students are fascinated by the snowy scenery of Colombia Ice Field, Canada.



Our students fill Lutheran Church with their beautiful voices.



Our students enjoy talking with the elderly in the senior lodge.



Our students are impressed with the hospitality of the host family during their stay in Canada.

Scholarships and Study Opportunities in the U.S



Our senior form students find the information on further studies in the United States rewarding.

The Hong Kong-Germany Exchange Programme 2012



'Flowers' blossom: German buddies imitate their Hong Kong counterparts when they learn how to write the Chinese character meaning 'flower'.



Welcome to Macau: Teachers and students from Gymnasium Neustadt i. Holstein, Germany, are impressed by the unique architectural style of Ruínas de S. Paulo, Macau.

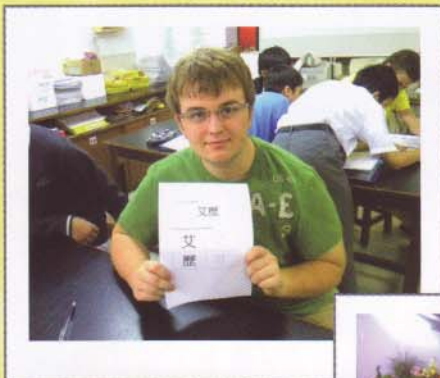


Patrick Hiebert, one of the German buddies, displays his exceptional musical talents during a morning assembly.



One, two, three...Smile! The delegation from Gymnasium Neustadt i. Holstein benefits a lot from the visit to Kao Yip Middle School, Macau.

The Hong Kong-USA Exchange Programme 2011



An American student learns how to write his name in Chinese.



The family of an LSS student is host to their American buddies during their visit to Hong Kong.

Yummy! Students from the US enjoy the refreshments at the English Corner.



Goodbye and thank you: American and Hong Kong buddies bid farewell to each other at Hong Kong International Airport.



City life: The American and Hong Kong buddies walking outside Millennium Park in Chicago.



Yahoo....America, we're coming!

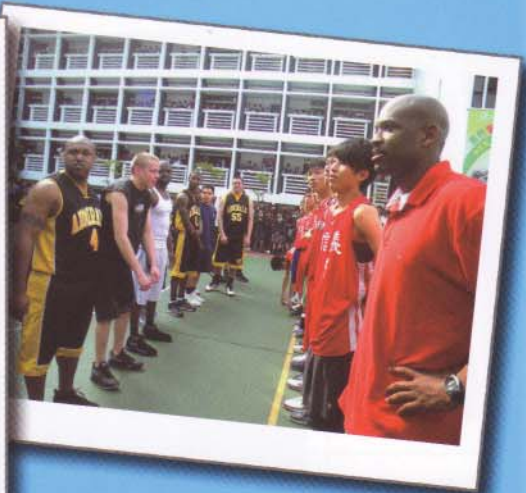


Yummy! Our students cook instant noodles for their American buddies in a cookery class to promote Hong Kong food culture.

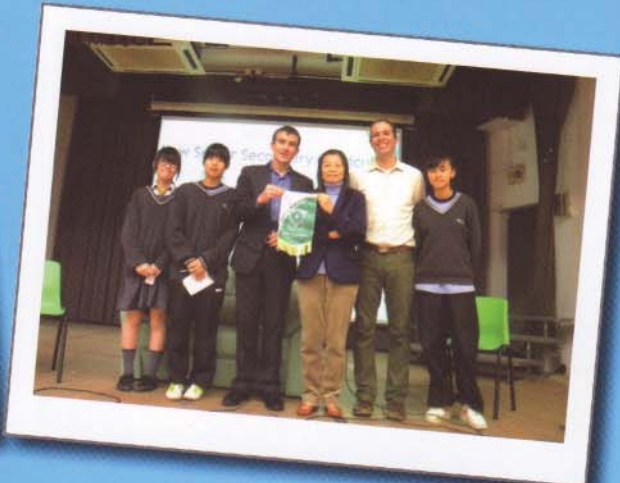


Ms Szeto (right) and her students visit the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Hall of Fame Museum.

Learning English through Sports Communication



The English Department welcomes sailors from the USS Blue Ridge who have a friendly basketball match with our students.



Mr Colin Fishwick, a competitive runner and consular officer from the US consulate, shares his experience and knowledge about running in a talk on English and Sports Communication at our school.

Fashion Show 2012



Our talented student models display their stunning masterpieces made of recycled materials in celebration of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Learning English through Debating



English in fun: S3 students are happy to have a chance to improve their eloquence in an English debating workshop.

Quality Teaching, Learning and Sharing



Ms Wen (speaking), Ms Cheung, Ms Szeto and Ms Lo give a talk entitled 'Quality Learning: Enhancing English Learning and Teaching through Strategic Curriculum Design' at Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers.

English Resources Mobile Centre



Our students enjoy reading the books available at the English Resources Mobile Centre.

Theme-based Presentations



Ms Cheung (in the left photo) and Mr Tam (in the right photo) present prizes to the winning teams in recognition of their impressive presentation skills.

German buddies, Hong Kong experience



This April, I joined the Hong Kong - Germany Exchange Programme. I stayed at a hotel for four days to socialize and spend time with some German students who came to Hong Kong. I joined this exchange programme because I want to learn more English. I want to improve my English speaking skills. I also wanted to know more about German lifestyle and culture. I want to increase my knowledge of the world, make more friends from other countries, improve my English and widen my horizons. This exchange programme could help me learn more. Therefore, I decided to join this exchange programme.

On the first day, we went to Eco Park. My buddy was a girl. She is the first foreigner I have ever talked to. She is very beautiful. After Eco Park, we went to have lunch. At lunch we were talking very happily. That night we watched football. On the second day, the German students came to our school. We were at school in the morning and the German and Hong Kong students played together at night. On the fourth day, I played and learned with the German students. On the last day, we exchanged our contact information. I didn't want the German students to leave.

On the fourth day, I was very happy. This was my first time joining the exchange programme. At first, I was very afraid. I didn't know how to talk with them. However, the German students actively talked with me. They encouraged me to speak more. I gradually talked with the German students more. During these four days, we played together very happily. The German students gave me a special experience. In talking with them, I learned that German people like football very much. I made a lot of friends during this exchange programme. Now, I use English to talk confidently with foreigners. I loved all of the German students. I really enjoyed and loved this exchange programme.

Lam Sze Sze (4B)



The cheerful German buddies give a vivid PowerPoint presentation about their school, Gymnasium Neustadt i. Holstein, and German culture during a weekly assembly.



It's lesson time! Our students enjoy chatting with their German buddies in the English lessons. Both parties see the conversation a meaningful cultural exchange.

I miss you, America!

Chinese people and American people have different languages, cultures and traditions. Practically between the two cultures everything looks and seems different. However, after I participated in the 2011 Hong Kong - USA Exchange Programme at our school, I discovered that we also share many similarities.

My American buddy, Gavin Clark, lives with his happy family. They were my host family during my stay in America. Gavin is a very funny guy. We always joked around with each other and took funny photos together. I also attended school, rode horses and went hunting with him. Gavin's mom looked after me as if I were her son. They let me know we were like a family. I enjoyed every moment I spent with Gavin and his family.

When it was time to say goodbye, I knew that I had a lot of words in my heart but I just couldn't speak them out loud. Tears ran down my face. I had no more words to say but my emotions were expressed by a hug.

At that time, I realized that Chinese and American people are the same. Even though we have different languages, cultures and traditions, we have similar feelings and dreams. Sometimes, we can even speak the same language.

I will never forget the kindness and hospitality of the Clark family, and how their home became my home during my short stay in the United States of America.

Michael Tsoi (5B)



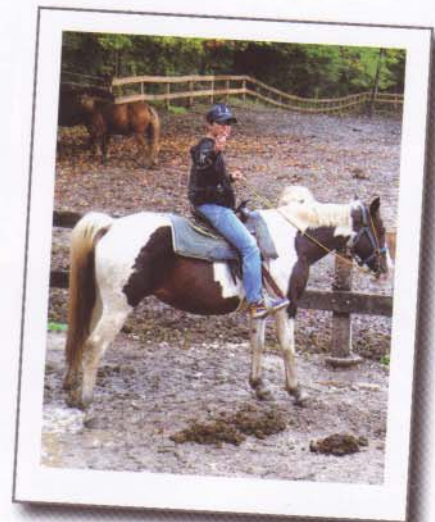
Michael Tsoi (right) enjoys playing an exciting war game with his American buddy Gavin Clark (second on the right).



Wow, we're flying high in the sky! The breathtaking view of Chicago fascinates Michael Tsoi (right) during his visit to Sears Tower.



Ms Szeto (left most) and her students outside South Vermillion High School, Indiana, United States.



"Look! I'm a great rider!" says Michael.

Singapore: Here we come!

This Easter holiday, I was very glad to join the Hong Kong - Singapore Exchange Programme. In five short days, I learned a lot. I think these five days were very substantial, because I could visit many famous places and join their school life too.

In the programme, I found that there are a lot of differences in school life between Hong Kong and Singapore.

First of all, because Singapore is a multicultural society their canteen has a lot more choices than our school's canteen. For example, their canteen also served Indian and Japanese food. The students of the school are from many different ethnic and cultural groups.

The facilities of the school are also different from ours. In Singapore, their school is bigger than ours and they have more space. For example, their playground was just like our sports field.

During the programme, I found that the students in Singapore were very nice. They were concerned about me and wanted to share their lifestyle with me. This helped me know more about their local culture and how to communicate with the others.

Overall, through this experience I gained something fruitful and rewarding. These experiences would definitely be useful for the rest of my life. I will never forget my memories of Singapore.

Kelly Chan (5B)



Our students are grateful for the hospitality of the teachers and students from Millennium Institute.



Kelly Chan (2nd from the right in the left photo) believes that the visits to Merlion Park and Night Safari are some of the glittering chapters in her life.



Chief Editors:

Ms Iris Szeto
Mr Henry Tam

Assistant Editors:

Ms Connie Liu
Mr Tony Wong

Editorial

Consultants:

Mr Paul Schedlich
Ms Connie Wen
Ms Vicky Cheung