



JCSRS

Important
Dates:



Jan 17 – Jan 21
Book Week

Jan 31 – Feb
Chinese New Year
Holiday

Feb 7 – Feb 10
Parents' Day

Mar 21 – Mar 25
Health Week

Apr 4
JCSRS CPD,
No school for students

Apr 11
JCSRS CPD,
No school for students

Apr 18 – May 2
Easter Holiday

Newsletter

Principal's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support this term. I cannot believe the term is coming to an end but wow as a school we have sure packed a lot into this time.

This year we are offering a greater range of physical education opportunities for all students by employing a team of coaches from ESL. In addition, Kit has arranged opportunities for students to regularly attend swimming sessions in a local swimming pool. These opportunities are on top of an already very full school academic timetable. You will be pleased to hear that I have expressed my interest for the students to get an opportunity to attend a residential again early next year, but this time internationally!

The Ceilidh was a memorable night for all and I would like to thank Denise and all the staff for their hard work in setting up and promoting this event. It raised a lot of money for the students who will see the benefits early in the new year.

As a school, we are continually looking at innovated ways of developing further opportunities for your children and greater inclusive opportunities and access within mainstream ESF schools. Sanjana's success in integrated into Kowloon Junior School community and eventually transferred to Bradbury Learning Support Class highlights our commitment to supporting and getting the best out of all our students. Three other pupils have already started an inclusive programme into Beacon Hill School.

The school is firmly developing as a centre of excellence within the foundation and for this, I thank my extremely hardworking and committed team but this also extends to the families and parents who continuously support us.

I hope you enjoy our last newsletter in 2010 and may I take this opportunity to thank you all and wish you a very restful and peaceful Christmas.

Alan Howells

JCSRS Principal/SEN Adviser

Vice Principal's Update

We have a whole team of new staff joining us this year taking up different positions. The three new teachers are Lorna Banfield in class A, Sandra Gee in class B and Sally Beveridge in class H.



Lorna has worked in special schools in the UK for some years and has great experience in working with students with special needs. She is proficient in the use of Makaton and PECS to support children's communication.



Sandra has worked in various international primary schools in Hong Kong and has close connection with the school for a few years with her great interest and enthusiasm in inclusive education. Her in-depth knowledge of PYP will definitely bring in new dimension to our curriculum.



Sally was well educated in ESF schools. Being a specialist in art, she has already brought an artistic dynamic to the school. The Secondary students all enjoy having the art lesson with her in KGV Art Room.

Other new staff include some Education Assistants in various classes. They are Joanne, Sarah, Linda, Ivy, Yasmin, John, Heidi, Jane, Andy, Angela and Alana. We have also added two Education Assistants to support therapy work, they are Alice and Michael while Carmen and Chung Xi support us in the front desk.

Our staff have a very hard working but rewarding term to support the students' education. We wish all of them and your family a wonderful Christmas break!

Kit Chan

Vice Principal

Vice Principal's Update



Charity Ceilidh Evening

On the 12th of November this year we held our second annual charity event. The night was a Scottish themed Ceilidh (Scottish food and dancing) and was a great success in terms of both a fun evening and money raised for the PTA. With help from the staff students produced items for sale or auction such as pieces of art, jewelry and food which proved extremely popular with all guests, especially as some early Christmas presents! Many of our staff and parents also donated very generous prizes to our silent auction such as holidays, yacht trips, ceramics etc which led to a very pleasing sum of HKD44,217.40 raised for the school!

Denise McLaughlin (Vice Principal) would like to pass on her huge thanks to all staff, students, parents and friends of JCSRS for helping to make our Ceilidh such a successful night! All funds raised will now be presented to the PTA for use within the school.



Denise McLaughlin

Vice Principal

Hydrotherapy

What is hydrotherapy?



The name hydrotherapy comes from the Greek word hydrotherapeia with hydro meaning water and therapeia meaning healing. Hydrotherapy uses water to assist or challenge a person's movement. It includes many of the same therapeutic exercises, gait, balance and strength training that would occur on land, but in this case using water as a medium for therapy.

We are very fortunate here at JCSRS to have our own hydrotherapy facility. The 7 metre pool has 3 depths, ranging from 75cm at the shallow end to 1m at the deepest part. Approximately 20 of our students currently participate in regular hydrotherapy sessions. All of these students have physical disabilities and the water allows a freedom of movement that is not always possible on land, as well as providing resistance for muscle strengthening programmes. Each individual hydrotherapy programme is specifically designed for the student by the physiotherapist. Our hydrotherapy assistant (Amy) then implements the programmes and the physiotherapist will monitor the progress of the student with regular reviews.

What does hydrotherapy provide that land-based therapy does not?



The buoyancy of water decreases the amount of weight that a person must manage when walking, standing, and performing exercises. With this decreased weight-bearing, the staff and the student can focus more on the quality of the activity and less on how to maneuver one's full body weight. The amount of weight the student must bear is determined by the depth of the water; the deeper the water, the more weight is supported. Water therefore provides a safe gait-training (walking) environment, due to the support it offers and the decreased risk of injury from a fall. Additionally, water can provide resistance to movement for muscle strengthening, either a single limb or the whole body. Hydrotherapy can also be used as a relaxation tool for individuals with high tone and sensory processing issues. The preferred water temperature for tone

reduction and to avoid an increase in tone is between 31°C and 34°C. Our pool is kept at a comfortable 32 °C. The warmth of the water helps to relax muscles and reduce tone so that other activities can then be facilitated, such as strengthening and gait training. Many individuals also benefit from the tactile sensation of the water, which provides more sensory input, aiding body awareness and sensory integration in those with sensory dysfunction.



Bianca Brown

Physiotherapist

Inclusive Learning Technology Conference 2010

In May, Nicky (OT) and I (SLT) attended the four-day Inclusive Technology Conference in Australia, organized by Spectronics. The conference was aimed at all types of professionals working with people with special needs and highlighted hardware and software that currently exists to support learning, communication and daily living skills.



I was particularly interested in alternative and augmentative communication (AAC), while Nicky focused on access issues. We both came away with more information than we bargained for! On the one hand, I felt pleased that we already use many of the resources that were on display while I also felt we had areas that could be developed.

Following this, the ESF agreed to fund a drive in our school to develop the range of high tech communication available to students. With this money, we have purchased 10 iPod touch devices and 2 iPads to help students communicate. There are lots of apps available that focus on SEN and communication and we are currently running a trial of some of these. Some apps to look out for are: Proloquo2go, iPrompts and Grace, to name but a few. We also purchased 3 netbooks for communication purposes and a number of light-tech voice output devices. So far we have had some great successes and I hope you will have a chance to see some of our expert AAC users in the Christmas Concert!



Thanks to several parents who have passed on information about new technologies and ideas that can help our students. We hope to set up a moodle soon which will be an interactive space where we can share ideas and links. We will keep you posted.

Karen Carmody

Speech and Language Therapist

Class A Update

Class A has had a busy start to the academic year enjoying Educational Visits with Class D and welcoming new pupils and staff to the school.



Our unit of inquiry has been focused on encouraging the children to use a variety of communication. We have started to use Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) across different settings. The children have particularly enjoyed using PECS in the kitchen to help request equipment and to express their preferences for favourite types of foods.



Class A staff have been supporting communication with Makaton signing and it has been fantastic to see that all of the children are attempting to sign key words on a daily basis. We have also enjoyed our themed Halloween day and being involved with the whole school plant project. The children have all participated in planting their seedlings and caring for them.



Outside of school, we are pleased to report that Seona Kenny took part in HSBC's The World's Largest Mini Rugby Tournament on 30th October 2010 and received a World Record Certificate for participating. Well done Seona!

Lorna Banfield

Class A Teacher

Class B Update

This term at JCSRS, our Primary students have been working in collaboration with mainstream Primary schools in our community. Creating this link has helped to promote inclusion for our students, while also providing an SEN experience which supports the various Units of Inquiries. We have been working in partnership with the international section at the Japanese International School (Tai Po) and Kingston International School. Building this relationship with the schools has helped to enrich our learning engagements and provide our students with meaningful social interaction with others. We look forward to many more opportunities with other schools in the Hong Kong school community.



Sandra Gee

Class B Teacher

Class C Update

Abigail left us and moved to UK with her family. In the farewell party, students and staff saw photos of Abigail throughout her years at our school.



We welcome Ellie joining our class. Ellie is friendly and eager to learn.



We have visitors from other ESF primary and secondary schools. Some students from Japanese International School played games with us. Class C really enjoyed meeting them!



Every week in the Music Room, we have Music and Movement sessions.

Academically, Class C works hard to achieve each student's IPPs. In the classroom and around the school we follow each student's individual program.



Alex makes choices with eye gaze frame.



Lucas practices walking up and down the stairs.



Rehaan and Sophie use PECS to communicate.

We work closely with therapists in our class to improve communication, physical ability and sensory awareness.



This term we went out on three educational visits to the Science Museum, the Health Centre and most recently, our Christmas outing to Festival Walk.



Hyuga is our PYP unit of enquiry in this term. We got a touching feedback from Hyuga's mother about Hyuga using the AAC machine at home: Before I was back from office last Friday, Hyuga kept pressing the AAC machine "Mama" and when I was back at home, he pressed "Hi Mama". I was so happy and touched and last Saturday, I was out of home in the morning time, he kept pressing "Where is mama?"

Mimi Kong

Class C Teacher

Class D Update

Class D has been working hard on the unit of inquiry 'I am a communicator' in Term one. Students have active participation in exploring a variety of means of communication in school. They are also keen on expressing and communicating needs and ideas through the use of PECS, symbols, signings, gestures and speech. They communicate with different people in school for different purposes. They have fun joining in various group and therapy activities which help to develop their social and communication skills. They are all great communicators!



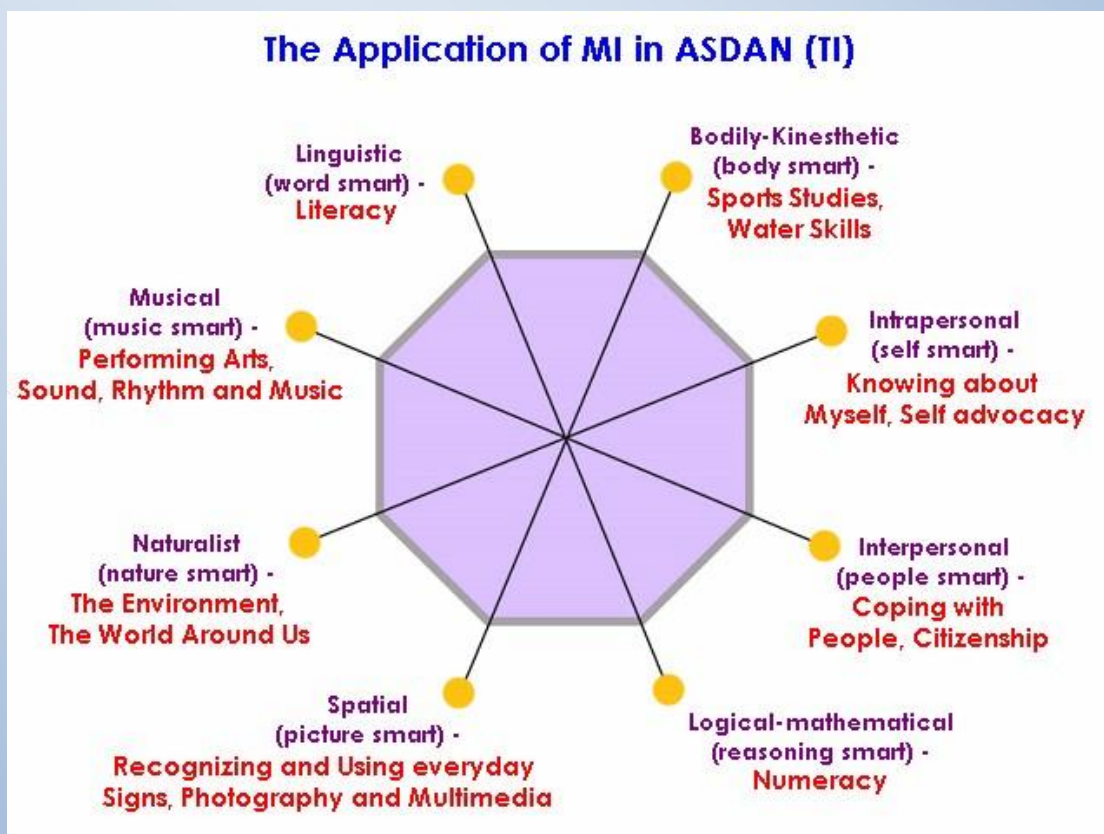
Heidi Lee

Class D Teacher

The ASDAN Programme Fosters Multiple Intelligences

The theory of multiple intelligences was developed in 1983 by Dr. Howard Gardner, the then Professor of Education at Harvard University. Dr. Gardner proposed eight different intelligences: Linguistic intelligence, logical-mathematical intelligence, spatial intelligence, bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, musical intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, intrapersonal intelligence, and naturalist intelligence.

The ASDAN programme stresses the importance of placing equal attention on individuals who show talent in the different domains of intelligences. It aims to foster young people who enrich our community such as artists, businessman, designers, dancers, musicians, naturalists, and others. It breaks away from the traditional classrooms, which focus mostly on linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligences. The ASDAN curriculum encourages not only academic achievement but also independent living skills and vocational training to prepare those who have talents in various life skills and practical skills. Lessons are presented as a wide variety of activities using music, arts, role play, ICT, field trips, self-reflection, workshops and much more.



Multiple Intelligences
 Asdan Towards Independence

At JCSRS the Towards Independence Programme (TI) is used for the Post 16 group to illustrate the importance of fostering students' multiple intelligence development. TI offers our students an all round curriculum of Independent Living Skills, Creative studies, Cultural, Leisure/Recreation/Sport, Personal Development/Citizenship/PSHE and Work Related studies. The students' days are filled with activities and learning which is placed in a real life context in order to provide a sensory filled and rich text environment for their learning.

Linguistic



Reading Newspaper

Logical-mathematical



Running a business

Spatial



Recognizing and using everyday signs

Bodily-kinesthetic



Rugby

Multiple Intelligences

Musical



Pirate day

Intrapersonal



Knowing about myself

Naturalist



Visiting Eco-park

Interpersonal



Making friends

Resource: Armstrong, Thomas. Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom, 3rd Edition, Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2009.

Jackie Newman

Class E Teacher

Class F Update

Helping local community

We have taken part in activities to improve our local environment. Students made searches on the Internet to identify environmental issues in Hong Kong, e.g. litter and beach pollution. We watched some 'Clean Hong Kong Campaign' video footage to identify what we could do to improve our local environment. We then agreed to set up a project to collect litter to keep the school environment clean.



We also learnt about environmental protection from an educational visit at the Eco Park in Tuen Mun. The visitor centre at the Eco Park was full of interesting and engaging exhibits, such as a life-size model of a landfill, a virtual three-dimensional multimedia exhibit, interactive games and videos.



Through these activities, our awareness of environment protection was not only increased but also forced us to rethink the 3Rs - "Reduce", "Reuse" and "Recycle". We also collected photos and pictures to design the classroom display board to promote the environmental project in school!

Raising funds for Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charity 2010.

We participated in raising funds for this year's Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charity Event. Class F students designed a poster to promote the sale of raffle tickets in school and we thank our staff for supporting this meaningful event.



On Sunday, 31st October, some of our secondary students and parents came to help man the Coconut Shyø stall at the Matilda Sedan Chair Bazaar at the Peak.

I would also like to thank the parents for all their support, it was fantastic to see the students enjoying the great atmosphere, interacting with people at the stall and being involved in a local charity event. It was definitely a very worthy experience for our students!



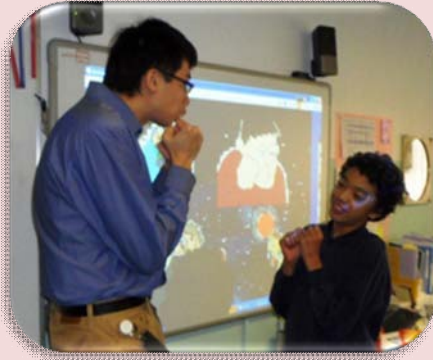
Carol Li

Class F Teacher

Class G Update

During this term, we worked on the theme, 'I am a Communicator'. In addition to learning some signs in communicating with others and using of PECS and communication book, Tommy and Adam have started using iPads. They use iPads to communicate their needs with people working with them. Tommy is good at using an iPad with different staff requesting for food he wants to eat. Adam is doing well in generalizing his skills using pictures of different categories such as food and things he wants.

They are good communicators!



Floria Siu

Class G Teacher

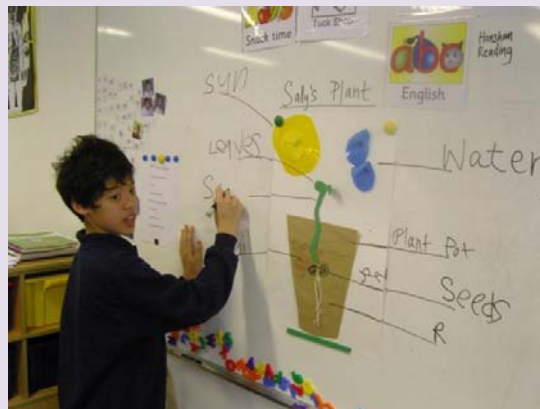
Class H Update

Dear Parents,

This was my very first term at Sarah Roe and I have been blessed with such a wonderful class - each day we discover and try out new activities and from these new experiences there have been so many wonderful moments in the past seventeen weeks that I felt it appropriate to reflect and share, if briefly, on class H's adventures in learning, in and out of our classroom! If you look through our daily photos on our camera, you can see that it's filled with an abundant amount of fun and engaging snapshots of us all, from competing in Science quizzes about the human body, to exploring the outside world using our Five senses to improve our understanding.



You may be aware that term 1's transdisciplinary theme is based on an inquiry into the nature of the self. We learnt about how the human body functions, the six main organs and how they play a vital part in keeping us alive. After this we moved on our five senses and in the last 3 weeks we studied health and relationships with friends and families. We have taken Educational trips to the Science Museum, the Supermarket and the secret jungle at KGV School. Last month we received a plant pot each to love and care for and along with this we studied the science behind plant growth and survival. As a happy result of our plants have now grown an estimate of 5 cm's long!



5 memorable music/game and story clips that we have grown to love in class H that also enhance our learning are:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUmSnvJfzEg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1II5qRw-Y-k>

<http://www.netrover.com/~kingskid/science/science.htm>

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/health/anatomy/skeleton/Skeleton_game_1.htm

Along with all our Science and English lessons we have also focused on learning the time and to help understand what times means we have made our very own clocks with movable hands. Sheungho, our therapist has been helping us learn more about Hong Kong currency and identifying coins when paying for items and also when giving the correct change. We really found this useful when we run the food tuck-shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the rest of the school. Cooking class sessions in preparation for the tuck shop has to be our favorite session of the week!



If our time table wasn't busy enough we have also had weekly integration sessions of Art and D&T workshops at the KGV School. This term we have focused on working with clay. Over the past few weeks we have made clay pots, tea cups and Christmas decorations. After creating our designs, we then placed them in the large kiln to fire and once they had cooled we glazed our creations with pretty colours. Next term we will focus on some new skills in art, such as collage, oil painting and mixed media. Quite recently we have started to design and build our very own boat in the large D&T workshop. We have safely tested out all the fascinating tools and machinery on offer and I look forward to next month when we can give our boat a test drive on the KGV pond!



I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Regards,

Sally Beveridge

Class H Teacher

Swimming at Cheerful Court

Swimming is considered a competitive sport with many benefits ranging from physical to psychological factors. It is a sport that is not strenuous on our joints; trains all of the body's muscles; improves cardiovascular fitness; develops sportsmanship; trains self-discipline & refreshes the mind. It is a sport that should be experienced by all people.

This year, 12 students from classes D and G have participated in swimming sessions every Wednesday outside of school, at Cheerful Court, 55 Choi Road, Ngau Tau Kok. This Senior Citizens Club offers an 11.6 x 6.65 meter indoor heated pool with depths ranging from 0.8 to 1.2 meters. Not only does it have a great pool for novice to intermediate training, but it also provides a Jacuzzi for our comfort and relaxation for after our swimming sessions.



The swimming sessions are led by our Swimming instructor Terry Chan from the ESF Educational Services. Each student is monitored by an Educational assistant from our school to perform and accomplish different tasks in the water. Some of the exercises involved include general movement through water, learning to float, propulsion with legs using a float and swimming underwater.

All of our students have shown great improvement, adaptability, courage and confidence in the water environment and we hope to see our students participating on a competitive level in the future.

After Chinese New Year classes B and H will start participating in our outdoor swimming sessions on Wednesday. Terry, our instructor accompanied by our Educational Assistants will continue to support our students in the pool throughout the year, and we hope to accomplish more of our objectives in the coming year.



Tse Kai Cho

Educational Assistant

Holiday Concert: Land of the Sweets

This year's holiday concert was a lovely success! Our performance, titled "Land of the Sweets", showcased excerpts from *The Nutcracker*.

From the start, our audience was tickled by a march from some tiny toy soldiers (Class B). Then, the Sugar Plum Fairy (Amanda) introduced Clara (Shanzay) and the Nutcracker Prince (Hyuga) to her Land of the Sweets. To thank Clara for her bravery, the Sugar Plum Fairy offered presentations from sweets from around the world:

- Spanish Chocolate (Class G)
- Marzipan (Class H)
- Arabian Coffee (Class C)
- Chinese Tea (Class A)
- Russian Candy Canes (Classes E & F)
- Frosted Flowers (Malina, Jeremy, Kimika & Renee)
- Gingerbread and BonBons (Class D)

Just as Clara was beginning to feel sleepy, the Sugar Plum Fairy presented a dainty dance of her own, and they all said their goodbyes.

Congratulations to JCSRS's budding Broadway stars, and a very big "Thank You" to our exceptionally supportive staff!



Laura Ferretti

Kindergarten SEN Advisor

Other news:

PEAK SCHOOL CENTENARY – 1911-2011

We are keen to contact alumni, parents of alumni, former staff and former and current Peak residents to gain a greater insight into the history of Peak School and Peak-living over the last 100 years.

If you have any stories, photos, snippets of information, reports, and anecdotes to add to our collection and to include in the Commemorative Book we will be producing, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Vanessa at ps100@peakschool.net and do pass on the word to anyone else who may be able to help us.

Vivian Chou

Office Manager / Admissions Secretary