

FAIR IS WORTH

2012-2013

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

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FORWARD

Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.

William Wordsworth

Pride in Our Words provides an excellent platform for brilliant writers in FLSS to showcase their masterpieces. All the writers who have contributed their writings to the publication showed strong commitment in learning and using English. To them, the greatest pleasure of writing is not only what it is about, but is also about the inner music the words make. However, writing is never an easy task, not to mention writing by second-language learners. Through reading these beautiful works, we hope that one day, you can proudly tell us —

I'm not a good writer, but I'm an excellent writer.

This publication would not have been possible without the support and the help of several parties who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance and guidance in the preparation and completion of *Pride in Our Words*. First and foremost, we would like to thank all the writers who have contributed their excellent writings to the publication. Without you, *Pride in Our Words* will never be successful. Next, we would like to extend our heartily thanks to our English teachers who have provided their professional comments throughout the preparation process. With your great-hearted support and guidance, *Pride in Our Words* is made possible. Then, we would like to thank the English Society for their great work in assisting the publication of *Pride in Our Words*. Last but not least, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Simon Chan, our principal, for his great effort in cultivating an English learning environment for his students and the teachers, and his unlimited support to this publication.

Finally, we would like to proudly present this year's *Pride in Our Words* to all of you. We hope that you will enjoy every single word these young talents have created.

Enjoy!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

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PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

Writing Competition 2013 Masterpieces

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

Champion

10 Years Later...

1D Fong Sin Yi

'Oh! Happy New Year! Happy 2023!'

The people screamed loudly. There were a lot of people. We were celebrating the arrival of the New Year. My college classmate JoJo gave me a New Year gift. It was very special.

This gift was a job. She invited me to join the University volunteer group together to go to the mountain to help the children. I thought this New Year would be meaningful. I had never joined such voluntary work. I felt excited and adventurous.

In New Year holiday, we're going to the mountain. Although the children were poor, they gave us many gifts and welcomed us warmly. I could see the smile on their face. I felt very happy.

After that, we had our dinner here. The food was not rich but we were also happy to eat. After a few days, we helped the children to learn how to make the bracelets. A little girl gave a bracelet to me. I felt very warm. The last day when we went out, suddenly there was a monster. He caught the children and was ready to eat her. I said 'No! No! No!' The monster leaped out. When I was trying to save the girl, I heard my mother call me ' Florence you are getting late!'

Oh! This was a dream!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

1st Runner Up

10 Years Later...

1B Lau Yuk Wa

10 Years later
Maybe I am *a teacher*
I teach my students in school
And the students like me
I like them very much too
I hope I can teach them lots of knowledge

10 Years later
Maybe I am *a policeman*
I protect lots of people
I help lots of people
I am very happy
I hope the world will be peaceful

10 Years later
Maybe I am *a guide*
I lead lots of people to enjoy the
beautiful scenery
I introduce history of scenic spots for them
I am very happy
I hope visitors can be happy

10 Years later
Maybe I am *a scientist*
I do experiment in the laboratory
I study lots of things
I am baldanzoso
I hope I can invent more things

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

2nd Runner Up

10 Years Later...

1B Chow Tim Fan

“Hey, the show is coming, please prepare quickly!” the staff said.

“Okay.” I said immediately.

Ten years later, I will be a famous singer in Korea. I have a lot of fans all over the world. I learn Korean every day since I live in Korea and I am a Korea singer. Soon, I will have a concert in Korea. In this period, I’m very nervous because this is my first concert. I need to be very hard-working and do the best of the best. I adore my job very much and I don’t want to disappoint my fans, so I need to work hard and prepare a lot for my first concert. Fortunately, the concert is very successful and satisfactory. My fans enjoy my concert a lot and are so touched at the end of the concert.

As a Hong Kong person, being a Korea singer is really a hard job. Hong Kong and Korea are two different places using two different languages. However, we have a common language, which is “Music”!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

Champion

10 Years Later

2D Wu Rachel Long Ching

In 2013, everything was normal until that moment...

It happened ten years later, when darkness covered the Earth. Aliens came, and invaded our planet. They took everything away from us. All which was left was silence. Suddenly, a lightning bolt struck down an alien's head which was the captain of the Alien Force. Its head exploded and inside of it was a mystical ball.

A curious child stepped out of the porch and saw a shiny ball rolling towards him. The child was attracted to the ball. He immediately took the mystical ball and played with it without looking if anyone was watching.

While the child was playing, an alien suddenly appeared in front of him. The child was so scared that he dropped the mystical ball on the floor and ran away. The alien tried to save the ball before it dropped on the floor, but it was too late. The mystical ball clashed to the ground. Every bit of the mystical ball got into tons of tiny pieces except a glittery stone. The glittery stone rose up as the alien tried to catch it. In a blink of an eye, the glittery stone shone every corner of the world with light.

Trees and flowers started growing. Water was filling the dry lakes. Everyone cheered and clapped happily. Most of all, the aliens went back to their planet and never came back again.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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1st Runner Up

Ten Years Later

2B Lo Pui Sang

Ten years later
I may be *a healthy housewife*
Who has a fascinating life

I may be *a clumsy clerk*
Or a total jerk

I may be *a squeaky stalker*
Who is as sneaky as a mouse

I may be *a serious scientist*
Or even a magazine journalist

Years pass by
Everything changes
After ten years
Real friends will stay, so
Cherish what you've got at the moment.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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A Dream of 10 Years

2A Janet Fan

‘Welcome to Green Environment Time. Today we are going to talk about the environmental problems. Now let’s pass the time to the famous environmental scholar-----Mr. White.’ said the host.

‘Hello, today I am going to talk about the environment of this modern city. The Air Pollution Index is getting higher and higher. If you want to have a walk in the park like ten years before, you had better give up. This world has changed. The air is full of dust; and the road is covered with rubbish. You can image what the park looks like. Yea! Just like a landfill. Nobody cares. Everyone just cares about his smart phones, Facebook, etc.’ He said with a tone of astonishment.

‘The coverage of forests in this world is decreasing continuously! The air composition of carbon dioxide and oxygen is getting imbalanced. Then you may say, trees! Trees can help us! But where are the trees? All of them are killed by humans! We have to protect the environment and the Earth. The Earth is crying. She is tired. She feels desperate of us. She finds that her children are trying to kill her! Not only her, even the environment, the animals and the plants!’ He stopped for a while.

‘Please! Protect the Earth! Don’t let it disappear! said Mr. White sadly.
‘NO!’ I quickly jump down from my bed.

Oh, it’s just a dream. But if the dream really happened 10 years later, what would the Earth be?

Would it vanish? I really hope everyone can protect the Earth. Do not let the dream really come true.

Champion

A Letter to Future Me

3D Pang Sze Ching

Dear me after ten years,

How are you? Are you working what I dream of? Are you still waiting for someone special? Have you changed a lot because of the society?

My dream job is to be a painter. Have you achieved it yet? Maybe you are a famous painter already, and everyone likes your painting. But please, don't be arrogant and look down on other new painters, because you were like them once. Maybe you aren't a good painter right now, but don't lose faith and give up your dream, because if there is a will, there is a way. Remember, whatever you do and will do, I will always give you my fullest support. You know we are perfect, we can do this.

I know having a good lover is every girl's dream. Maybe you are in a sweet relationship now. If so, you must cherish him. Give all your love and care to him and understand each other. Everyone will be jealous of you. Maybe you are still alone, but never mind, it doesn't mean you aren't lovable. It is just not a right time. Please, remember your uniqueness and strength. Believe in yourself and don't change because of other's perception.

Have you changed to a materialistic and selfish person because of the social norm? Maybe you are confused about whether you should change or not. And I can tell you must not change, and remember happiness doesn't depend on how many you have in reality, but on whether you think you have enough.

Maybe you will think "Alice, things aren't that simple". Yet, the world is really simple because happiness is always there as long as you believe in yourself and follow your heart.

Love,
Me ten years ago

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

1st Runner Up

Ten Years Later

3E Chan Ho Yin

Ten years ago, in front of my grandparents' house, there was a clean river before. But now, the river has turned into a muddy creek. We can't see the fish swim freely in there anymore. There were small trees beside the river, covered with a variety of convenient bags. We no longer smell the fresh air, there is rancid smell everywhere.

We can find more and more cars on the road which are resulting in the exhaust gas emission. Although convenient bags bring a lot of convenience for us, it is not perishable. The harmful gases produced by burning will destroy the ozone layer, which further intensifies the greenhouse effect. The health of the Earth is worsening. Actually it is the responsibility of every citizen to protect the environment and maintain the ecological balance.

Ten years later, I think people will still be using convenient bags, even it is harmful to the environment. And the factories will discharge sewage as they always do. The people will keep felling trees.

I regretted.

I could do more things to save our Earth at that time. But now it seems to be too late to fix. I wish I could do something. The place we live is getting worse and all I can do is just watching. But in fact, the way we can help the Earth is quite simple. Even they are only some little things, they can also help. For instance, turn off the light when we don't use it, write on both sides of the paper, to name but a few. So the question is: Why aren't human beings willing to do these little things?

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

2nd Runner Up

Ten Years Later

3A Lam Lok Yiu

How're you now? Have you imagined what will you be changed in your life after ten years?

Maybe ten years later, the environment of the earth would become worse and worse, so people would begin to find the other planets to live in.

Ten years later, I'll get married with a man who comes from Jupiter. Although we come from different planets, we never worry about the language barrier. It's because we communicate by music and body language. He can play piano very well.

Luckily I will realize my dream and become a trumpet teacher after ten years. I think I'll enjoy this kind of lifestyle very much because I can share music with students every day, and I like a leisurely life. I'll teach my students in my house, it's near the countryside. I'll have a walk every evening with my husband and my dog, Eddie. It's a puppy which comes from the other Milky Way. I will have a dark blue private car. It will be operated by monkeys. There're some bananas over the monkeys, and the monkeys will start cycling while the bananas go up and down. Actually the car which can accommodate five people requires the manpower of two adult monkeys.

Ten years later, what'll you be?

Although my ideas about ten years later are a bit unrealistic, no one can exactly predict what will happen ten years later, right?

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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Champion

10 Years Later

4A Lim Tsz Ching

*“Hello Jeff, this is Kevin. I’m now in Hong Kong.
Let’s have a meeting in New York three hours later.
I’m already on the plane. See you later.”*

2023, a highly advanced generation, technology grows with an extremely fast speed that people have never thought of these days. People become dependent. Whatever they do, they’ll find the simplest way so that they don’t ever need to move a finger.

“Hey Jeff, I’ve arrived in New York. So let’s meet at TK coffee shop.” Kevin took out his personal-intelligent pad, which is a gadget that everyone uses for shopping, transportation, etc. by poking it several times. In just a second, an armchair appeared in front of him. There’re two wheels at the bottom of the armchair, and some buttons on the arms. When Kevin just sat and pressed the buttons, he disappeared at the front of TK coffee shop within a while. Kevin stood up and pulled the door, Jeff was there.

Kevin and Jeff had a nice time in the café. It’s rather late, and so they decided to leave. “Jeff, see you later.” Kevin said. He took out his pad at the same time “What? What’s wrong?” Kevin kept pressing the pad, but nothing appeared. When he was still trying to find out the problem, Jeff was standing across the street yelling at Kevin. “Can you use your pad? Mine is out of order.” “Me neither, we got a big problem!” Kevin walked to Jeff to see whether they can solve those problems. Meanwhile, they realized that everyone on the street couldn’t use their pads too.

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Now Kevin and Jeff had no money, because they usually pay money by the pad, which was now not functioning. They could just walk back home. Jeff was worried. He said, “I’m not sure about the right way to home, as I don’t have a map.” “Your home is just in this area. How come you don’t remember where your home is?” Kevin doubted. They started arguing on the way to Jeff’s home with non-stop sentences.

Finally they went back home. They switched on the radio, listened to the news and noticed that the personal-intelligent pad’s system had an error. That’s the reason why all the pads didn’t work. Fortunately, the error had been tackled very soon. Everything would be back to normal.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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1st Runner Up

10 Years from Now

4B Tsoi Ka Ngo

10 years from now,
I would be bigger and stronger,
I dream a bit bigger and boulder.
But my friends would be fewer,
And trouble would be bigger than ever.

10 years from now,
I should be braver, should be more mature,
I should achieve something more and better.
But my burden would weigh a bit more,
And my life should be a lot busier.

10 years from now,
I wish to be taller and wealthier,
I wish to have magic like Harry Potter.
But I can't find a way to Hogwart's door,
So I just keep dreaming 'til forever.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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10 years later

4C Lee Sum Yu

I'm an eleven-year-old girl. I always stay alone because I think playing is a very stupid thing. I think it is wasting my time. I'm different with other children. I don't like playing. I want to grow up, and I don't like my parents too.

My name's Miki. I always dream about my future, like I'll be a charming lady and I'll have a great job, and I could attract a lot of guys. Today, I live my life as usual. When I'm having a shower, I am dreaming about my future again. And then I fell asleep in the bathtub.

When I woke up, I'm not in the bathtub. I was in my bed. But I remembered that I was having a shower. I thought I was dreaming then. I bit my hand, "Oh! It hurts!" Maybe I was not dreaming. I couldn't find anyone in the house and I felt so strange of my body. I felt I was very big. Then I found a toilet in this house. I looked at the woman inside the mirror. "Oh my god! Is this me?" I saw I was wearing a pajama. I touched my face and the woman inside the mirror did the same thing. I was very amazed about this so I was going to find my parents. I walked into the dining room. I saw a Buddhist altar. I saw my parents' photos on the Buddhist altar but they looked older. I then understood that they're not here. It's unbelievable. All the things were strange! My parents were gone and left me alone! I found a newspaper. When I read the date, I noticed that it's ten years after! Then I heard a voice from the bedroom.

"Baby? Are you here?" Then a guy who was naked came out!
"Oh no! Can you wear something?!" Then I got into the bathroom again.

I tried to find someone for help, so I picked up my phone and called my best friend. It took me about two minutes to find her number because the list had a lot of guys' phone numbers. When she answered my call, she shouted, "You stole my love! You're not my friend anymore!!" She seemed to be crying. And I understood more about what kind of woman I am ten years later. I was so upset about this. Maybe it was just like my dream. I was a charming lady but it was still different from my dream. I waited for the guy to come out of the bedroom so that I could get in. I locked myself in the bathroom. For a change of feeling, I took a shower and fell asleep again.

When I woke up, I was in the bathroom. The water had already turned cold. I looked at the mirror, and I saw a little girl again. I knew I was back! I hate that future so I need to do something to change it and have a new future!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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Champion

10 Years later...

5D Wong Ching Yiu

“Have you ever imagined
what you look like ten years later?”
People love to ask this question
but I cannot answer

Some want to be a flower shopper
Some want to be a social worker
Some want to be a doctor or lawyer
Some want to devote their life to letters

But I wonder if it will help
Even if you find your way
People are too positive
that they never consider

Maybe ten years later
I’m dead, the Earth’s sick or the world’s
going to be over
We never know what will happen
at the next moment
In this case, all these things do not matter
I will receive a letter
which I wrote ten years former
I will find that I used to dream to
become a lyricist

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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Yet I was drowned by reality
Now I become a slave of money
Those who used to whoop to
seek dream courageously
Now they work hard just like a fairytale's donkey

So I wonder if it will help
Even if you have a dream
Reality is too cruel
And you aren't temerarious

Therefore ten years later
I work for what I hate and throw away my guitar
I burn the letter so as to say goodbye to myself
who used to want to be a lyricist

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

1st Runner Up

Time travel

5A Chow Kwan Fung

It was a cold and silent night. I was watching a film called “*Christmas Carol*” at home. The selfish man, Scrooge, was being chased by “the Ghost of Christmas Future”. The man looked frightened and the ghost looked terrible. This scene was so exciting that nothing could distract my attention.

Suddenly, the man crashed a girl with a familiar face. Who was she? I left my seat and walked closer towards the television. The girl had a small round face with a pair of black framed glasses. She tied up her straight hair in a ponytail. ‘It’s me!’ I exclaimed, ‘Why am I in the movie? I’m not an actress!’ All the things came abruptly and were unbelievable. The man left ‘me’ there and kept running. I, the real me, was then grabbed by a big hand, followed a faint.

When I woke up again, I was lying on a quiet small island. The weather there was extremely hot. Feeling confused, I stood up and took off my heavy overcoat. I looked around and wanted to find where I was but I could only see a boundless sea surrounding me. I took out my mobile phone from my pocket. The date “24th December 2023” was manifested there. ‘I was in 2023?’ I shouted immediately, ‘The ghost did bring me to the future!’

A man was sitting on a boat which was parked along the coast. He seemed depressed. I walked towards him and decided to seek help. ‘Excuse me, I’m lost. Could you tell me where I am? Am I still in Hong Kong?’ ‘Don’t you remember?’ the man answered, ‘A severe flooding occurred last year and had submerged lots of low-lying areas in Hong Kong. Scientists all believed that global warming is responsible for this disaster...’

At that moment, I realized what happened. Meanwhile, the confusion in my heart turned into scare and worry.

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The hot weather made me sweat a lot and my hair and skin was about to burn. I should leave this horrible place as soon as possible but I had no idea how I could get back to 2013. I gave twenty dollars to the man and requested him to bring me to another island. I needed to find the ghost again. During the “travel”, I found something unbelievable. The sea water surrounding me was really dirty and stinky. Industrial, construction and commercial wastes could all be found in the sea. Moreover, when I looked up the sky, I could only see some grey smog. The clear blue ocean and sky in the past had disappeared. I was really shocked.

Suddenly, a storm struck the sea. The waves became stronger and stronger, eventually turned our boat over. I stopped breathing and struggled in the sea. Before I lost my consciousness, I saw a big hand stretch out and it grabbed me again.

A noise woke me up. I opened my eyes and found that I had returned back to 2013 and was lying on the floor at my home. My hair and clothes were all wet, which made me shiver all over with cold. I stood up quickly and used a towel to wrap myself up. The movie, “Christmas Carol”, had just ended. I sat on the sofa and started thinking back my special “adventure”. I believed that everything happened was real and wasn’t a dream as all the things came co-incidentally! May be the reason why I could arrive at Hong Kong in 2013 was because of the arrangement made by the God. He wanted to remind us the significance of the environmental conservation and enhance our awareness over this issue. No matter whether the experience was real or not, it was my responsibility to protect the environment and tell others the severe consequences of different pollution problems nowadays.

From now on, we had only ten years left to rescue our planet. If we still do nothing for our future and refuse to be eco-friendly, our city with eight million residents’ memories would sooner or later be submerged permanently.

I switched all the idle appliances off and wrote down my experience on the diary. I believe what we do to our Earth now determined our fate after ten years.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

10 years later...

5D Sheung Chin Ching

Today, I woke up early and was going to visit relatives with my son in Chinese New Year. We arrived at my parent's home in the morning. I knocked at the door, and it was opened slowly by my mother. My mother, whose back was bent with age, got a lot of wrinkles all over her face. The cap hid some of her thin, white hair. She looked pleased and amused to see us. But their flat was very crowded and narrow. After my son received a red packet from my parents, we sat quietly on the sofa. There wasn't any interaction between us and my parents. Soon, I felt bored and anxious. I wanted to leave this simple and crude home as soon as possible. "I got a financial problem so I can't pay you with the daily expenses." I said to my father in mumble. He beamed and said it was fine. We left soon as my son was begging me to buy him the latest electronic gadget.

Suddenly, a strong light appeared in front of me in a flash. When I woke and I was lying on the street. The sky was brown. While I looked up, there were plenty of aircrafts. They moved and floated fast in the air. I was surprised and amazed. But I still didn't realize where I was. The only thought that came onto my mind was to go back my parent's home. It was almost impossible for me to determine the direction due to the vast change of the landscape in Hong Kong. Hence, I had to ask the passer-by to distinguish what was happening and the way to my home. Everyone on the street didn't give me a glimpse even if I spoke to them loudly. Eventually, I discovered the fact that I became transparent. I felt naked, both physically and mentally. My heart thumped frequently. I tried to convince myself to keep calm and find the way to my home in perseverance.

In the end, I found the building of my home. I breathed a sigh of relief. It was still there, though the surrounding old buildings had been replaced by new skyscrapers. Looking at the huge screen which was attached on the wall of skyscrapers, I saw the video about Chinese New Year celebration, and the screen showed the year “2023”. “Oh my god, I eventually realized that I was in the year of 2023. It was ten years after my actual livelihood”, I shouted out in astonishment.

At the same time, the gate of the building opened slowly. An old man who sat on the wheelchair was pushed outside by my son. I walked closer to see more clearly. The old man looked like me. “I am sending my father to the Homes for the Aged since there isn’t space for him to live in. I have to give enough space for my son to play.” My son exclaimed. At that time, I realized that I’m the guy who was sitting on the wheelchair. I was in the future and watching what was happening on me after ten years. I was mad insomuch as my son abandoned me after he had become an adult.

All of a sudden, the strong light appeared again and I felt that someone holds my hand tightly. “Goodness! I finally get back to ten years earlier. I understand that I should be a good role model to my son, so as to prevent my son from doing the same thing to me in the future. I should repay to my parents and spend more time on them. There is no point that I use the money for buying electronic gadgets instead of helping my parents to live better. We will get retribution if we are selfish and inconsiderate. Meanwhile, we ought to make compensation before nightmare falls on you!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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**Young Poet Competition
2013
Masterpieces**

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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Champion

Grandma

1D Pang Chi Yung

Grandma is my favourite person.

Red is her favourite colour.

At times of difficulties her smile warms my heart.

Nothing makes me confused anymore.

Day by day she talks to me

Makes me feel a sense of relief.

All I want to say is “Grandma, I love you!”

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

1st Runner Up

Brother

1C Fung Kwan Ham

Brother is my family member.

Rayson Fung is his English name.

Often he plays with me

Tea is his favourite drink.

He always forgives when I am wrong.

Every day he helps me do revision

Remember I love you more than you love me.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

2nd Runner Up

Friends

1A Ho Kin Shing

Friends, we can't live without them.

Ricky, my best friend, we like playing games.

Ivan, I always swim with him.

Edmond, he likes watching films.

Nobody can replace them

Dream, we pursue together.

So we won't forget one another.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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Super Junior

2B Wu Jia Qi

Super Show is their concert's name.

Update their news on the Internet every day.

Promise their fans everything

'Ever-Lasting Friend' is their fans' name.

Ryeo Wook is the shortest member.

Join every ceremony usually

Upgrade their popularity

No one can resist their charisma.

I think they are important to 'Ever-Lasting Friends'.

One of the Asian groups in Madison Square Garden has concert

Rating is the highest in the world.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

1st Runner Up

Brother

2B Lo Pui Shan

Both my best friend and brother, who could
Read my mind.
Often gives me useful advice
Tough days, you accompany me to walk through, your
Humor and jokes,
Enchant our family every day.
Really, you are an awesome brother!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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2nd Runner Up

Hong Kong

2D Li Ho Yeung

Heading to the Peak is amazing.

Original price of goods there is low.

Night and day shopping is a good idea.

Go and have afternoon tea, which is relaxing.

Kichshaw attracts customers.

Orchid and Bauhinia spread sweet smell

Night view of Tsim Sha Tsui is beautiful.

Going by ferry around the Victoria Harbour is wonderful.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

Champion

Hong Kong

3B Lai Shun Yue

Hong Kong is my favourite city.

Only staying here you won't be lonely.

Neighbourhood is always friendly.

Getting together makes me happy.

Karaoke is a good entertainment.

Ocean Park brings me lots of excitement.

Night view at the Peak won't bring any disappointment.

Growing up in Hong Kong is my biggest achievement.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

1st Runner Up

Heartbeat

3B Lam Ka Yan

Heartbeat is given when you're born.
Earlier than the sound you first yelled.
A big smile stays on everyone's face
Rest in mother's hug quietly.
Time goes on years by years.
Better than anything you get in life
Elderly life is joyful and complete.
A lot of crying faces around you.
The heartbeat stops with no regrets.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

2nd Runner Up

Badminton

3E Chan Ho Yin

Badminton is my favourite sport.
A pair of rackets and a shuttle cock.
Days at school are happy because of it
Making myself strong and relieved.
I often play it with my friends.
Nice time we spend
The happiness we share
Oh,
Nothing is better than that!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

Other Masterpieces From Students

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

What Your Favourite Restaurant? Why?

1A Wu Kelvin Chi Hong

My favourite kind of restaurant is upscale western restaurants. These upscale western restaurants provide us with many choices and meals.

The food of western restaurants is mostly expensive but delicate and delicious. During dinner time, all dishes are more expensive than those in lunch time and breakfast time.

Western restaurants have got many kinds of tableware, like knives, forks, spoons for soup, spoons for rice, spoons and forks for dessert and butter knives. Waiters and waitresses place them before we enter the restaurant. It is important to use the right utensils when we eat as there is a set of etiquette for dining.

Many food cultures stress table manner and western food culture is no exception. Some western restaurants have stringent regulations on diner's clothing and their etiquette. If you violate them, you may be required to leave the restaurant and you will be blacklisted.

I like western restaurants because the food is delicious. The other reason why I like it is that there are appetizers, main dishes, desserts and drinks. It makes me full enough.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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My Best Friend — Albee Lee

1A Yuen Kei King

About her

My best friend is Albee Lee. She is 12 years old. She is an S1 student. She is tall and slender. She has long, straight hair with fringe.

We went to the same primary school. We were together for six years. She is a nice, kind, smart and helpful girl. Albee is very sociable, therefore she has a lot of friends and we always play with others. She usually wears a T-shirt with shorts. I think she is a beautiful girl and she usually wears trendy clothes.

Interests

She likes listening to pop songs, singing, shopping and swimming. We always sing some pop songs and go shopping with each other. Our favourite activity is that we take self-portraits with our cameras. She likes surfing the Internet too!

Favourite people

Albee Lee's favourite person is her mum because her mum likes helping people. So, Albee's mum is her role model!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Letter to Justin Bieber

1B Lam Miu Ting, Sabrina

Dear Justin,

Hi! I'm your huge fan from Hong Kong. I'm 12 years old. My name is Sabrina. I have bought every single that you've released.

I love you so much. Your voice is so special. Your songs are so incredible. You're so talented and I love your style because other celebrities copy others', but you have your own style. I love all your albums very much! Moreover, you look handsome and cute too.

I want to ask you a few questions. You've written a lot of songs. Where does your inspiration come from? What would you say to yourself before a concert? Do your parents support you to be a singer? And lastly, why do you love your 'Bieber' so much?

I hope you'll bring more surprises for 'Bieber' in your coming album and concert!

Love,
Sabrina

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Letter to Cindy

1B To Ming Him, Andy

1st November, 2012

Dear Cindy,

Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you are really enjoying yourself in your new school!

I want to tell you about my school. It's called Fanling Lutheran Secondary School. It's near the Fanling MTR station. Therefore, I can go to school conveniently. There are three buildings in my school. They are the main building, Lok Fuk Wa Building and the new building. I love the new building most because there are a new library, a multi-media learning centre and a science lab. Also, I like reading in the library because I can gain more knowledge.

There are a lot of clubs and extra-curricular activities at my school. I'm in the acrobatics class. I am good at juggling balls. I can juggle three balls at the same time. I feel very happy when I can do that.

It's great to hear from you. I hope you enjoy the rest of the term.

Love,
Andy

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

About My Friend Fiona

1C Chan Ching

About Fiona

Fiona Chan is tall and plump. She has long, curly hair. She doesn't need glasses; her eyes are very healthy. She usually wears a T-shirt with shorts when she isn't at school. She is patient and friendly. She has a lot of friends. She is very funny too; she always tells jokes.

Likes and Dislikes

Fiona likes playing badminton because she thinks it can make her slender. She usually plays badminton with her friends or family in her free time. Actually, she likes playing badminton but she hates playing basketball. It's because she thinks it's very difficult to play it well.

Favourite people

Her mum is her role model because she is very patient. She never gets angry and she helps Fiona with her homework very patiently. Her mum always helps people too; she is very helpful.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

My Favourite Kind of Restaurant

1C Lee Chun Kwong

In Hong Kong, my favourite kind of restaurant is Hong-Kong-style restaurant, especially the street-side noodle. It is popular in Hong Kong. My mother told me that during the 1970s, hawkers sold food with a wooden cart on the streets. They sold cooked noodles with food that is very economical. People could order different types of noodles with different toppings. These noodles were considered "cheap and tasty". They were affordable for citizens.

Nowadays, it is difficult to find any carts on the streets. We can only try the delicious noodles in restaurants or stores at a higher price. Some common toppings include pig blood curds, pig intestine, pig skin, chicken wings, beef balls, fried fish balls, cuttlefish balls, Chinese radish and mushroom, etc. I like pig blood curds most.

We can choose different types of noodles such as rich noodles, thick or thin noodles, oily noodles and udon. My family usually visit the cart noodles restaurant once a week. Their food is good and tasty.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

The Story of a Life Guard

2A Janet Fan

I am a lifeguard. Yesterday, I saved a boy who went wind-surfing in rough seas. Now, I am going to tell you my experience.

Early in the morning yesterday, when I started work, I saw big waves in the sea and the sky was very dark. There were lots of big clouds in the sky. It was going to rain heavily!

I quickly went down the stairs from the tower. The wind was very strong. For safety reasons, I put up a red flag to remind people not to swim in the sea. After that, I went back to my tower. Although the weather was bad, there were still many people playing on the beach. But no swimmers were found in the sea.

Suddenly, I saw a boy with a surfboard swimming in the sea. At first, the boy enjoyed it very much. Then, the sea was getting very rough. The boy was scared. The big waves swept over the surfboard. The boy was unable to get out of the water and he was in danger.

I was very worried. I quickly rowed a life boat into the sea and saved him back Oh! The boy was cold and scared. How poor he was!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Letter of Advice

2B Chan Lok Tung

Dear Miss Ma,

Thank you for your letter. After reading the letter from you, I knew your problems. Please don't worry, I will give you some advice.

You said your coffee machine is not working. I suggest buying a new coffee machine. Perhaps your coffee machine doesn't work anymore, so you should buy a new one. If you want to buy a new coffee machine, you can go to Broadway because they always offer some sales. You can use less money and buy a better machine.

The second problem you have is that you are addicted to coffee. I suggest drinking less coffee or drinking other healthier drinks such as water or juice. If you drink too much coffee, you will be addicted to it, and it is bad for you. If you drink some healthy drinks, you will be healthy and won't get addicted to coffee.

The third problem you have is that you don't have enough energy to prepare the teaching materials without drinking coffee. Perhaps you should try to do some exercise such as running or walking. Then you will have much energy to work.

I hope your problems can be solved. If not, I will write more letters to you.

Love,
Tina

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Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Christmas Gift

2D Wong Chi Ching

My grandfather's name is Wong Lung Chung. He is eighty years old. He has small eyes with wrinkles on his face and usually carries a loving smile. He has lived in Fanling Village since 2000. He was a mini - bus driver. I visit him once a week.

When I was six years old, I lived with my grandfather. I had a running competition and I needed to practise. Therefore, he always ran with me at the playground. He was like a child and he was sporty and energetic.

During Christmas, we went to a neighbour's home to exchange Christmas gifts and have a great Christmas dinner. While I was opening Christmas gifts, my grandfather was decorating the Christmas tree and making a cake for me.

I was surprised when I saw a beautiful Christmas tree and he gave me a hand-made scarf. It was a wonderful Christmas and it will always remain in my memory.

My grandma has gone. Grandpa is my role model. He always teaches me that I ought to be generous and considerate. I really want to say 'thank you' to my grandpa and I will take care of him whatever happens.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Letter of Advice

2D Wu Rachel Long Ching

Dear Miss Wong,

I am sorry to hear about the big financial problem you are facing now. Don't be depressed! I am sure there are experts in Hong Kong who can help you deal with the problems you're experiencing now.

You should try to use cash more often instead of credit cards, you need to stop buying things that you don't actually need. Check your own closet for something to wear. You don't have to buy new clothes every time you go shopping. Perhaps you can donate some clothes to charities. I am sure they are going to be very grateful.

There is also another thing that can help you, it is to go window-shopping. We may be attracted by sales and discounts but it doesn't mean we have to buy all the products. Besides, it can also help you save more money.

If you still can't help yourself, you should go and consult a therapist. Maybe they can help you. If it still doesn't work, you should control yourself from going shopping.

I hope this advice helps. It is difficult to get rid of bad habits, but I am sure you can do it. Wish you good luck!

Cheers,
Chris

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Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Letter to Rita

3A Wong Ka Yan

Dear Rita,

I'm excited and surprised to know that you found a love letter in your locker. I can imagine how delighted you must be! This love letter can surely boost your confidence, right? However, to be frank, I think you should not become a girlfriend of the boy.

It's not a good idea for you to start dating that boy. First, both of you are not mature enough. Many young lovers date because of curiosity. They don't always understand what love is! I don't want you to be the same as them and I'm sure you don't understand the boy's personality. Maybe the boy is not suitable for you.

Besides, since we are in S3 now, I am worried about your study if you are dating. At this moment, studying is the most important for us. We have to face the reality that perhaps one day, you may break up with him. I am sure that you will be heartbroken. It will affect your studies seriously. Even though your love may turn out sweet and smooth, it will still affect your studies. It is because you will always miss him or go on dates while you are supposed to be studying.

Finally, I believe no parents want their children to start dating too early. If you quarrel with parents because of your relationship, I think it is not worth it. Family is always the most important thing in our life. It is indeed our NO.1!

These are my suggestions for you. Anyway, whether to start dating or not is your choice. Remember, I support you always. However, I hope you can calm down and think clearly. If you have any problems, feel free to let me know. I will try my very best to help you!

Cheers,
Katrina

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We Are One

3B Ip Ho Sze

After the challenging exam, we had an interesting project learning week to relax ourselves. “Entertainment” was the topic in this project learning week. In our class, we were divided into 10 groups to perform 10 unique mini-TV shows. We enjoyed fantastic dramas like news reports, cooking shows and musical dramas. I had a great time during the shows.

The last TV show performed in our class was a musical, fantasy drama. It was also the most entertaining show to me. It was called “We Are The World”. The show was about an alien who wanted to invade the Earth but he fell in love with a beautiful girl and thus stopped the invasion. It was witnessed by a song writer who then wrote about the story in a song called “We Are The World”. The singer got a prize because of this meaningful song!

Why do I choose “We Are the World” as the best show? There are three reasons. First, this show not only made me laugh, I could also learn that there’s no limit in love. No matter you’re an alien or a human being, a song writer or just a citizen, we can still love and care about each other. Second, this show was entertaining because the actors’ performance was stunning. They danced well and sang well, so we could see they had done a lot of practice. Third, this show was a musical drama. In the drama we could listen to beautiful songs like “Fantastic Baby” ,”You’re so beautiful” and ”We Are The World”. We could enjoy Korean pop songs and English pop songs in one show, which means there’s no language limit in music also.

There is nothing perfect in the world even it was the best show in our class. If this show had had some special effects such as light effect, I would have liked it more. Also if they had worn costumes (not school uniform), I would have enjoyed this show more. I look forward to their more stunning performance in the future!

To sum up, although there were some imperfections, I still like it most because of the educational plot. We can also see that there’s no limit in learning English. I am sure my class would appreciate the idea “We Are The World, We Are One” after watching this positive and entertaining show.

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Entertainment

3B Lai Shun Yue

Last week was the project learning week of FLSS. The topic of this year was “entertainment”. In the English lessons, F.3 students were asked to create a mini-TV show.

For me, the most entertaining show was “*We Are The World*”. It’s a romance drama. It was performed by Chantal (alien), Yiling (narrator), Candy (the musician) and Yumi (the beautiful girl) in 3B. It’s about an alien coming to destroy our Earth. Yet he met a beautiful girl and fell in love with her at first sight. And the love of the beautiful girl changed him, so he gave up his plan—destroying the Earth. A musician was touched deeply after hearing about this. In order to commemorate this, she wrote a song called “We are the world” and danced with everyone.

Why was “*We Are The World*” entertaining? First, I think the plot was creative. I thought it was the end of the show when the girl and the alien left. But I never thought the musician would come out. This fortuitously brought surprise to the audience. Second, the actor’s performance was stunning and attractive, especially the beautiful girl (Yumi). She had many facial expressions in the show. In order to let the audience know how she and the alien love each other, they pretended to kiss together. It was hilarious and the audience could understand their mood clearly. This also showed that they enjoyed performing the show. Third, they added some pop songs like “Fantastic baby” in the show. This made the show more captivating.

Although this show was brilliant, there are still some improvements that they can work on. First, they can add sound effects in the show. For example, when the alien starts to destroy the Earth, they can play the “boom” sound, or when the musician gets her award, they can play the applause. The show can then be more fantastic. Also, they should use those four designated items (i.e. toothbrush, toilet paper, stockings and instant noodles) more. I think the alien can give the toothbrush to the girl for courting her. The show would have been more creative if they had done so.

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To conclude, besides being entertaining, this show was quite meaningful too. We could learn to get along with each other even we are of different races. I think everyone should learn from that. I would definitely recommend this show.

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A Diary Entry

3B Lam Hing Yi

Dear Diary,

My cousin Mary, from Australia, is visiting Hong Kong. Today I went to a theme park with her. I'm going to tell you what happened at the theme park and why I'm so upset now.

The weather was quite bad. It started raining when I met Mary at 7a.m. My shoes and socks were all soaked! To make things worse, there were long queues for tickets! I was not interested at all when I saw this 'spectacular view'. We queued for almost an hour, and when we finally got the two "precious tickets", I was already exhausted!

First , we went on a roller coaster. Mary was highly excited but I just wanted to go home as soon as possible. Before the roller coaster started, people shouted and the scream was intolerable! I was confused and wondered why they were shouting like that. Even though I rode it three times, I still couldn't see any fun or excitement from it! Mary looked excited and said we should ride it again, again and again!

Then we went to the restaurant. The food was more expensive than I could imagine! Why? It is just a restaurant in the theme park, but when I looked at the price on the menu, everything was so pricey! It was as if I were in a restaurant of a five star hotel! What disappointed me most was that the food tasted bad and it looked like the kind of the thing that you can find in any fast food restaurant! It was unforgettable and I vowed that I would never ever eat there again!

After we watched a boring show, we were finally ready to go back home. Yet, it rained again before we could arrive home! Both of us forgot to bring our umbrellas! We paid \$100 for an umbrella in a shop. Today was so unforgettable and I'll never go to the theme park with Mary ever again.

Love,
Lily

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A Diary Entry

3B Tsang Tseuk Wing

24th September 2012

Dear Diary,

Mary's back! Mary's my cousin from Australia. She's lovely and beautiful. Today I went to a theme park with her.

When we arrived at the theme park, it was so hot! We decided to buy tickets, but there were long queues for tickets and we queued for a long time. But no matter how long the queues were, we were still excited.

First, we went on a roller coaster, and it was exciting. Our hair flew in the sky! The staff took photos of us, and Mary was so funny in the photo because she was scared and she was shouting crazily. It's so hilarious that I really enjoyed my time.

After the roller coaster, we watched a show. A bear was standing on a ball, and a parrot could speak English! It sang: "Nothing's gonna change my love for you, you ought to know by now how much I love you..." Wow! It is so surprising! I couldn't believe a bird could sing so interestingly! Mary said the parrot was singing for her. I think she just fell in love with the parrot!

We were hungry, so we decided to eat some food. Mary and I wanted hamburgers and Coke. It's a second "surprise" for us as everything was so expensive there! Of course we were upset when we paid for the food, but when we finished our meal, we both felt satisfied.

We watched the parade afterwards. It was so spectacular! The animals were lively and joyful. I felt delighted, too. Mary jumped on the street, and she said she did not want to go home! She wanted to stay in the park forever! I laughed at her, but actually I also shared the same feeling!

It's getting late; I should go to bed. Next month, I will go to Australia to visit Mary and she will take me to Ocean World in Australia. I'm sure I will enjoy my trip.

Good night.

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A Letter to Myself Saying Why I Don't Fall in Love

3D Ho Sung On

Dear Me,

I am writing to tell myself why I don't fall in love.

First of all, I don't fall in love because I am still young. I am still not mature enough to handle so much stuff at a time. Also, I would like to have a free life. I don't want to be occupied by others so much. I have so many hobbies, for example, playing basketball, playing computer games and reading books. I do not have enough time to play, so how can I have time to fall in love?

Moreover, I would like to focus on my studies, as studying hard is so important in getting a good job. Having a well-paid job can ensure me to afford a better life with my partner in the future. Now, I am just not financially stable to afford dating.

Apart from that, I would like to be with a group of friends more as gathering with many people is so happy. We can talk and play happily, and that is why I don't fall in love now.

All in all, it is still not a right time for me to fall in love with someone. I have love from my family members as well as my friends. It is already enough for me now.

I still have a happy life, so I don't fall in love now.

Love,
Nicolas

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A Letter of Reply to My Father

3E Terrence Ho

Dear Dad,

I have received the letter that you sent me. I'm sorry that I've made you so worried. In this letter, I'm going to explain my problems to you. Please give me some advice so that I can be a better person.

First, I didn't hand in my homework at school because I found the homework very difficult and nobody could teach me. Also, I was very lazy as I just wanted to play computer games.

Next, I had a fight with my brother because I asked him to teach me my homework but he didn't help me. Instead, he kept sending messages to his girlfriend on his phone and he also stole my money just to buy himself a pencil case. So, I had a fight with him.

Last but not least, I have improved my English because I have made a friend called Jack. He is very good at English. My English is very poor, so I asked him to teach me grammar and vocabulary after school. Also, I bought myself some English exercise books, hoping that I can get higher results in English if I do more exercises.

I hope that you will write to me soon.

Best,
Chris

A Letter to Tracy

4A Fong Suet Lam

Dear Tracy,

Today I had a substitute English teacher whose lesson was very impressive. She taught English through song lyrics and I found the lesson very special. This was the first time I had such a fun lesson. How lucky I was! I enjoyed my lesson very much and I want to have another English lesson like this.

Indeed, I felt depressed at the beginning of the lesson since we were going to have a reading test. However, when I saw the substitute teacher, I thought I wouldn't have a reading test. Unfortunately, I still got my reading test anyway! Yet, I felt elated after the disgusting reading test.

Guess what? My substitute English teacher played "Living in the Moment" sung by Jason Mraz. He is one of my favorite stars. I was fascinated by his sexy voice and his songs are very meaningful. That's why I like him though he is not good-looking. At the beginning of the lesson, she asked us if we knew the singer of that song after she played the prelude. This immediately caught my attention. It was very familiar to me, but I was just not sure which song it was.

No one could answer until she played more. When I heard the melody, I looked as if I'd been hit by lightning! I shouted rapidly 'Jason Mraz!!' All my classmates were shocked by my reaction. You know I am not an outgoing guy and my reaction just made my classmates look at me in a new way. My thrilled feelings spread contagiously. We were extremely energetic and we enjoyed the song very much. While the teacher was playing the song, everyone listened to it silently because we didn't want to miss any words.

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After playing the song once, she showed us an MV with the lyrics. She taught us how to understand the meaning of the song and the special structure of the lyrics. She said using rhymes can make it easier for the singer. It can also impress the audience more and make the melody more beautiful. She gave an example in this song -- 'easy and breezy'. 'Easy' and 'breezy' is a rhyming pair with similar pronunciation, which is a skill of writing sentence structures. She then showed us some good use of repetition like 'with peace in my mind, I got peace in my heart, got peace in my soul.' Using these skills, the listeners would also find it easier to memorize the melody and lyrics.

After admiring the lyrics, we also had time to appreciate the meaningful message of the song. I found that Jason Mraz is very smart. This song is about life and what attitude we should have. He points out at the beginning that our life is only one act and we should not waste it. It reminds me that I don't have a lot of time and shouldn't just live with frustration and anxiety! The sentence 'worry about all the things that will not happen to me, so I just let go of what I know I don't know.' particularly strikes my mind.

I should think more positively. I should not always blame my life or worry about my future because I can't control or know what will happen. Why do I care about these things? My anxious feeling can't change anything, so why not live happily and enjoy every moment I have? Also, we always regret things in the past or the decisions we have made. When we think of the past, we feel depressed. So, what is the meaning of thinking about the things we have done? We should do what the lyrics say: "let my past go past" and live in the moment. This lesson was very impressive.

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At the end of the lesson, we sang together crazily and this was the moment that I enjoyed the most. We were very delighted and satisfied. We were really living in the moment. What a beautiful day! After this lesson, I will try to pay attention to the lyrics in different songs. And now, I want to share this song with you and hope you can enjoy it just as I did.

Yours,
Chris Wong

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A Letter to My Friend

4A FONG SUET NAM

Dear my friend,

You know, I had a marvelous day in Andy Warhol's 15 minutes eternal exhibition today. I've found a light in my dimly wayward life, and also a way to pursue my dream. I just can't wait to share all of them with you.

Recently, I'm hastily busy with all my interests and heaps of homework. Somehow I started doubting myself if I can manage it all. The reality has extinguished all my hopes, dreams and dragged me into despair. I felt awful, depressed and even stuck in the deep dark cul-de-sac. Yet Andy Warhol, who could have been my kindred spirit if he hadn't died so early, has given me a helping hand.

Have you ever wanted to be a machine? Andy Warhol did. He made numerous boxes and paintings using the same figure. He said "The reason why I'm painting this way is that I want to be a machine". I'm so impressed by his style! Having said all that, I don't think he really meant that he wanted to be dull and repetitive. On the contrary, he wanted to challenge himself as a human and express the characteristics of the industrialized era that he experienced in his life. His originality and hard work have inspired me to try my best and devote all my effort to make full use of my ability. I now feel like having the energy to embrace the challenges ahead of me!

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His innovative mind and fun-filled lifestyle have also inspired me immensely. There is a silver factory in the exhibition which is similar to his real studio. The real one was covered with foil and silver paint. It's so cool, isn't it? This factory was well-known in that time not solely because of the design, but also the decadent of carefree lifestyle full of money, parties, drugs and fame. You know it very well how much I love partying! He once said '... I always say, one's company, two's a crowd, three's a party'. How can I not fancy the idea of having party spree and forgetting all the anxiety! (Of course, I would skip the drugs!)

I know you are good at imagination. Let's imagine that you're sitting in a huge, silent and inanimate room. Your mind was blank, waiting for something terrible to happen. The world became more and more abstract and your eyes are fixed unswervingly and unseeingly on the street outside the window. What would you feel? This is the painting that enchanted me ethereally in the exhibition. It is called 'the electric chair' which was a tool to make killing as efficient and impersonal as possible. This should be a picture of bleak image but, interestingly, I saw hope in it. The calligraphy and the use of color make me feel there is hope even you are on the electric chair. There is surely a rescue even in the worst situation. When I think more deeply, I comprehend that every dilemma always has a solution, maybe more than one. It just depends on my attitude and how I think. Just like what Nick Vujcic said "we have a choice..." I can see the bright light of glitz at the end of the cul-de-sac and I am near the exit!!!

Also, his curiosity about everything has prompted me to keep on my dreams. As I remember, his first job was working in a shoes shop. After he earned enough money, he went to travel around the world. He did this because he wanted to widen his horizon and that's what I want to do too. I don't need to worry about whether I'm talented or not. I can develop it by

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travelling around the world and gaining my life experience. The world is very big and it is waiting for me to discover it. I determine to realize my dream, and from now on, I am going to challenge myself and work as hard as I could to build up myself to discover my life and even the world.

Love,
Madeline

P.S If you are going to the art museum, it's my honor to accompany you. I would love to visit it again.

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The Pop-Art Master- Andy Warhol

4A Ho Hung Hung

Inspirations come from daily life

When your brain is stuck, what will you do to get inspired? If you were Andy Warhol, you would probably walk around to gain new ideas. Indeed, this great artist did get most of his inspirations from daily life.

The "Father" of Pop Art

Andy Warhol, who is a well-known artist, led the rise of Pop Art. When he was a child, he unfortunately got an illness, which made him confined to the hospital. Since he was often bedridden as a child, his mother bought a camera for him to kill time. During the rehabilitation, he started drawing, listening to the radio and collecting pictures of movie stars around his bed. Since his first art work was displayed in the Glamour magazine, his fame boosted suddenly and he became one of the most successful illustrators in the 50s. His art works include photographs, film productions, sculptures and large-scale paintings.

"I want to be a machine."

Have you ever imagined that you were a machine? Funnily enough, he enjoyed copying something hundred times until he was sick of it. For example, the "Marilyn Monore" and "Campbell's Soup Cans" were produced over 100 pieces using the method of screen painting. Although they are alike, there are differences among them. When you observe them carefully, even they are of the same size, you can actually figure out the differences. Those "Marilyn Monore" are all very colorful and

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fashionable. It shows that Andy Warhol was very good at mixing different colors on the paintings. For instance, one of the "Marilyn Monroe" paintings only has three different colors-- green, yellow and pink, but one will not feel dull. On the contrary, it brings a visual beauty to the audience.



Those "Marilyn Monore" paintings reminded me of one vital thing: although everybody keeps doing more or less the same things every day, like going to school, doing assignments, studying and sleeping, our life can still be fruitful or unique. It just depends on how we think about it. We can think out of the box and be the unique one. Even if we are doing the same things, our dreams and goals can be different. It is just like Andy Warhol's screen paintings. Although they are alike, they are at the same time unique.

Have you ever collected memories?

Memories are intangible, so we are not able to collect it. Yet, you may collect something that can remind you of your valuable memories. This was just like what Andy Warhol did. In the 70s, he started collecting things in daily life and put them in a paper box named "Time Capsule". You can completely understand his habits or what he was doing through

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the box. As he collected over 600 "Time Capsules", he planned to open them after 10 years. One of the boxes stored the things he acquired during his visit to Hong Kong. Particularly, he collected the Hong Kong map written in Japanese. It is quite historic because this map was collected after the World War II. It's history that makes us reflect or learn something and avoids making the same mistakes over and over.



"In the future everybody will be world-famous for fifteen minutes."

Andy Warhol could be so successful because of his personalities, and most importantly, his great sense of art. He concentrated on every style of art. For example, in his screen paintings, he focused on one subject but made over a hundred differences on it. Through those screen paintings, you can see his effort and how patient he was. He was also an intelligent artist as he mixed art with business products.

In conclusion, everybody has the opportunity to be world-famous like Andy Warhol. Yet, before that, we have to insist and concentrate on what we are interested in. Also, we have to put the greatest effort into it and turn our stress into the motivation to move on. This is what we can learn from this great pop art master- Andy Warhol.

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A Letter to Tracy

4A Lam Ho Fung

Dear Tracy,

How are you? I feel good today as I had a special experience in my English class. I had a substitute English teacher who taught me English through the use of song lyrics. It's interesting, right?

While I was worrying about the English reading test today, a substitute teacher came into the classroom and asked us: 'Shall we listen to some songs instead of having a reading quiz today?' Of course the whole class screamed 'Yes!' immediately. First, she played a folk song called 'If I were a rich man', which talked about the wishes of an old farmer. After playing the song, she started explaining what the lyrics talked about and introduced some knowledge about songs and song writing skills.

Second, she organized a vote for us to choose the most popular song in our class. The voting result was 'You raise me up', which is an encouraging song. It has been sung by hundreds of singers. After she played the song, she asked the class some questions related to the song. I answered a question easily because I have already listened to this song over 50 times!

Let me tell you the part that I enjoyed most. It was the moment when the song 'You raise me up' was played. As nearly our whole class recognized the song, many of us started singing along. Can you imagine the feeling of the whole class singing your favourite song together? I can tell you it was absolutely awesome!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

After this entertaining English lesson, I thought I had learnt much about songs and lyrics. For example, lyrics are meant to be touching and beautiful; and they can enrich the feeling of listeners. Also, I learnt some grammar and special words like onomatopoeia and personification. I think I can make use of the knowledge from this lesson for my writing.

After my description, are you interested in this kind of lesson? I'm looking forward to seeing the substitute teacher again. Don't forget to write a reply to me!

Best wishes,
Chris Wong

A Letter to Pat

4A Man Hin Ki, Emily

Dear Pat,

How are you? I know that you are quite upset now as you are considering either dropping out of school or repeating the year. Don't be so hard on yourself. I am going to give you some useful advice.

In my opinion, you'd better repeat the year. As you know, it is quite difficult for us to get a job right now. If you do not repeat the year in school, you will have nothing to do. With your inadequate qualifications and skills, you will probably be unemployed or be exploited by mean employers.

I understand that it is quite boring for you to learn the same things again. Try to think more positively! You mentioned that you did poorly at school. That means you had not learned things well before. It is necessary for you to learn again. Also, you can get a place at university easily after studying hard. You may have more chances to study what you enjoy then.

If you repeat the year, you will be older and more mature than your peers. Nonetheless, you will not be lonely; you can make friends with your new classmates. I think they will be friendly to you! Also, you can still have lunch with your old classmates. I'm sure you will enjoy your happy school life.

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Repeating the year, you can turn over a new leaf and get a deeper understanding of the knowledge that you gained before. This is my advice only. No matter which decision you make, I'll still be with you and support you. You can share anything you like with me. I will be happy to get your letter.

Your buddy,
Emily

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Letter of Complaint

4A William Wong

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a complaint against animal cruelty. I have spotted a case of similar situation from my neighbor.

Just a few days ago, my neighbor was having an argument at about eleven o'clock. At first, I just ignored the problem because it wasn't too noisy for me. Yet, it went louder and louder as I could hear them slamming doors and knocking chairs over at the same time. Five minutes later, the argument stopped miraculously and it remained silent for about ten minutes. However, the barking of the dogs soon started, and I heard my neighbor trying to keep their pets quiet but it didn't work. Then I heard something like the broken wire of the fence outside my house after the barking. The noise became louder and louder that I realized it was the sound of their pets screaming and yelling miserably. The next morning I went to my neighbor and noticed that they were gone. Their pets were kept in a cage in their garden. Wounds and scars were clearly seen on their dogs, and there was only water in the container inside the cage. I could see their dogs dying in hunger and living in an unhygienic and filthy environment. This is totally unacceptable for me.

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Action should be taken against these animal abuses. People should be informed that animal safety and protection is of utmost importance. Furthermore, animal abuses are illegal and intolerable. People should be taught to make appropriate arrangements for their pets if the owners are not at home. If not, this may lead to the danger of negligence and mistreatment to pets. Apart from that, people should make sure that their pets do not live in filthy conditions. Everyone should take the responsibility to warn pet owners if they are not taking good care or even mistreating their pets. If the owners are indifferent to the matter and refuse any improvement, reporting to the police will be the next necessary step.

At last, I hope our society would take action against these problems and get them solved as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

A Letter to Matthew

4B Eunice Lee

Dear Matthew,

Guess what? I finally had a chance to be alone with the girl I had a crush on when I was in college. Do you remember Pat? I've mentioned her in the last letter I wrote to you. Anyway, I'm just really excited and I want to share my happy day with you.

Last night, when I was playing Simscity on Facebook, suddenly her Facebook chat popped out. (You know...I'm the tech-nerd so rarely anyone finds me.) I was shocked when she asked me to go to her house the next day to fix her DJ set. It's a kind of dream for me to talk to her.

So the next day, I drove my car to her house in the morning and helped her fix her speaker. While I was helping her out, a brown poodle crashed through the door. It's such an adorable pet! It saw me and kept jumping around, unfortunately that dog was too hyperactive and it knocked down Pat's lamp. Luckily, Pat wasn't mad and the poodle didn't get hurt.

When things were settled, I drove Pat to the mall to have a walk. But then I realized a thing. I forgot to eat breakfast when I rushed out! All I thought about was Pat the whole morning. My stomach was growling but Pat wanted to window-shop. Finally, it was so nice of her to take me to the food court instead of shopping.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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Later on, we went to the park outside to take some fresh air. Usually I hate rainy days, but today, 'I'm lovin' it!' While we were walking, a shower came by to visit us. We both didn't bring an umbrella, so we ran through the park. I had a thought of grabbing her hand and ran. I don't know why I was so brave at that moment, and I did what I wanted to. I finally held her hand! She didn't resist so I kept running with her.

When we got back to the parking lot, we both let go of each other's hand and got back in the car. We kept silent for the whole ride but blushed like a tomato. We arrived at the Avenue of the Stars at Tsim Sha Tsui at night. When we arrived, it was a minute before the fireworks blew up. It was a romantic night.

P.S. It's mid-night now, and I keep thinking of her. I can't sleep at all! Wish you were here in person.

Best wishes,
Chris

A Letter of Reply

4C Cheung Kwok Tim

Dear Mrs. Chan,

Thank you for your letter. I have read it through and I am writing to help you with the worries.

Staying out late is a common teenage issue nowadays. Your daughter may just go out to play with her friends. First, you have to trust her. Things may not be as bad as you imagine. Try to spend more time with her in daily life and tell her to return home earlier. It is also wise to give her some sex education in a warm way.

If she is really engaged in sexual activities, you should calm down because you cannot change what have happened. Persuade her not to have sex again and tell her some consequences of sexual activities like pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and so on. Girls will be afraid of having a baby at such a young age. What's more, nobody is willing to get seriously sick because of sexual activities.

Caring for your daughter more is needed too. You should learn more about her studies and social life from her teachers. I hope the suggestions above are useful for you.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Lam

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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A Murder Case

4C Lee Sum Yu

One day, when Kit got into the classroom, he found that there was a person hanging in the middle of the classroom. That person was dead and there was a lot of blood around him. After confirmation, Kit knew that the dead person was his friend, Pak Chow.

Half an hour later, Kit told the teachers who then called the police and stopped any students getting into to the classroom. And they arranged students to go back home instead. That day, the school had no lessons. Some students saw lots of police cars coming; it made them very curious and everyone was eager to know what had happened.

As Kit discovered the dead body, he needed to stay in the classroom for the police. When Kit was recalling what he saw to the police, suddenly a student ran into the classroom and took a photo of the dead body quickly. Surely, that student was taken away by the police and teachers in the next second. Kit ignored it and looked at the body. Kit just wanted the police to arrest the murderer.

In the afternoon, the police finished their job and started to leave. A police officer said to Kit, "Hey boy! Don't be so sad! We'll arrest the murderer soon!" Kit answered, "Please arrest him! Please!" During this week, Kit often saw police at school. Gradually they never came anymore. But the murderer was killing more people. Kit thought, "Have they already forgotten about Pak's case?" Kit decided to find out the murderer himself!

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Kit searched a lot of places, the classroom and the other important places. Even the clue was just a stone, Kit wouldn't let it go. Sometimes when Kit wanted to go into some new places, he was stopped by the teachers. Yet, Kit never gave up.

"Kit wanted to find out the murderer!" This wasn't any fresh news at school. But some students teased Kit that he couldn't find the murderer as he was stupid. Nevertheless, Kit was still working hard on the case. Suddenly, Kit remembered there was an annoying student who took a photo of the dead body. He wanted to ask that student for some clues. However, he heard that the student was always absent. Kit tried to ask the teachers for his living place but was rejected.

One day, that student went to school again and heard that Kit was looking for him. He found Kit to ask for what happened. "Hey! What happened? Are you looking for me?" he asked. "Yes! Do you have any clues about Pak Chow's case?" Kit asked. "Oh! That photo? Nothing, it's just a photo! But if you insist, I'll send it to you tonight!" "Thank you very much! Thank you for your help!!"

That night, when he was looking at the photo, he suddenly found a dark shadow outside of the window in the photo. After confirmation, that shadow was indeed his Mathematics teacher!

The next day, the teacher was arrested. When the police and Kit asked him why he committed such a horrible murder, he told everything and went crazy. It was because he didn't like Pak and thus he killed him. He couldn't control his emotion and he knew he could only be a murderer, not a teacher anymore.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

A Letter to the Secretary of Education

5A Chow Kwan Fung

Dear Secretary of Education,

In response to the talk about removing PE lessons from curriculum in certain schools, I am writing to express my views on this proposal. Under the examination-oriented system in Hong Kong, the public places more emphasis on students' academic results and gradually neglect the importance of their physical development. Some people even want to remove PE lessons from curriculum in order to ensure students can concentrate more on academic subjects. However, in my opinion, this program should not be implemented because PE lessons are important to students' physical health and mental health as well.

First, having PE lessons is essential to maintain students' health. Since the competition among students to enter the university is intense nowadays, they need to strive much harder so as to achieve their aims. Some of them will spend all their leisure time doing revision and attending cram schools but no time on exercising. Therefore, having PE lessons becomes the only chance for them to get into sport and it will play an important role in maintaining students' health. For example, PE lessons give them a treasurable opportunity to do exercise regularly. It helps to enhance their resistance to illnesses which can prevent them from getting sick easily such as flu, cough, etc. Moreover, doctors say we should exercise for over 30 minutes a day to maintain our health. Thus, PE lessons should not be removed as it can encourage students to do more exercise which is effective in helping them to build a healthier body.

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Second, having PE lessons is beneficial to students' mental health. Students in Hong Kong often encounter adversities in their studies which may create tremendous stress for them. In order to cope with their pressure, they need to do more exercise because our bodies will produce endorphin, which can reduce our stress and anxiety, when we are doing physical activities. This can help them relax their bodies. Furthermore, students can also find their own strengths while they are exercising. This gives a sense of achievement for them and enhances their self-esteem. Therefore, doing exercise regularly can improve their mental health.

It may be argued that students will be distracted from their studies easily when they finish their PE lessons. Indeed, students are tired after PE lessons but does it mean doing exercise will affect their performance on academic subjects? The answer is - definitely not. Exercise increases our metabolic rate which helps burn more fat for energy. Students then can study more efficiently and pay more attention to their studies. Also, sports improve our stamina and enable students to learn how to persist in doing something until the last moment. This attitude is significant to their studies. Hence, having PE lessons will not distract students from their learning.

All in all, under no circumstances should schools remove PE lessons from curriculum as it is crucial for students' physical and mental health. Schools should be more considerate on the all-round development of students.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Wong
Chris Wong

Internet Improving Daily Life for the Elderly

5A Kam Tin Yau

Nowadays, a majority of the elderly feel reluctant to acquire basic Internet skills. However, as technology advances, we obtain more and more information and news through the Internet than we ever did. The Internet has grown to be quite a crucial part of our daily lives. Undoubtedly, the Internet has also helped improve the quality of our daily lives. Of course, the elderly can definitely benefit from it too if they learn to use the Internet. There are several benefits and reasons.

First, the Internet can help the elderly have more interactions with the society. In Hong Kong, a reasonable number of elderly live alone. They often live alone in disdain or hopelessness, refusing to interact with the society. The Internet thus can bring them out of their isolation through the vast cyberspace. It is a place where the elderly can share their thoughts and opinions or even discontent without having actually to do so face to face. This will surely encourage them to express themselves, being a stepping-stone for the elderly to re-enter society, ultimately improving their daily life.

Second, the Internet can help the elderly to slow down the aging of the brain. With the progression of age, the elderly often starts to develop mental illnesses like the Parkinson's Diseases. There are few ways to counter the diseases but prevention is better than cure. The Internet can stimulate the brain to think and process more often, slowing the aging or deterioration of the brain. A research has shown that elderly that do not surf the Internet are more likely to be diagnosed with these diseases than those who do. Apart from having improved judgment and memories, the elderly will enjoy a better quality of daily life too.

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Thirdly, through the internet, the elderly can obtain up-to-date information about the world. In today's modern society, newspaper and television are no longer the sole sources of information. The Internet plays a major role in the media these days. News can spread rapidly on the Internet, allowing the "netizens" to have the most updated information. There is no age limit in whether to be staying in-touch with the world. Down to the point, the Internet has brought convenience and improved the quality of our daily lives. Why don't the elderly benefit from it too?

Some elderly have the traditional thought of the Internet being a "space for the young" and it being insignificant to the elderly. The truth is, this is being reversed right now. Humans will depend more on the Internet as the society evolves. In America, the Internet has become so popular that some magazine companies stopped printing hard copies of its magazines. Instead, they upload them onto the Internet due to the popularity of reading on the Internet. Fewer magazines and newspapers are printed every year, while the readers on the Internet grow in population. The Internet is not only an improvement to daily life, but also a necessity for people.

As the saying goes, "it's never too late to start learning." The Internet can be a beneficial place if the elderly would learn to make good use out of them. Lives will be improved and be much more meaningful.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

Clean Air Brings Us Economic Development

5A Suen Althea Wing Laam

Nowadays, air pollution is the most serious problem in Hong Kong. The number of people that have diseases caused by low air quality, like asthma or bronchitis, is increasing. However, some people prefer to give up clean air and promote economic development. It seems hard to balance economic growth and environmental protection. But to me, air quality is more important than economic development.

Because of low air quality, the number of people who have some breathing problems is increasing. Some diseases cannot completely be treated by money, such as cancer. Wealth is useless if you do not have good health. Citizens will have a better environment to live or work if there is a higher air quality standard. Healthy people mean a stronger work force that contributes to society. Government and society need to spend extra money to cure people who have breathing problems when the air quality is bad. The expenses for the treatment could be more than the expenses for the improvement of air quality. It is not good for Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness. Health comes before wealth; air quality is more important than economic development.

Sustainable development requires a fairly good environment to support it. I think sustainable development is the best method to balance air quality and economic development. Clean air should be the pioneer in supporting sustainable development. We cannot save the environment if the air is already polluted; nor can we proceed to develop our economy. We should improve the air quality at present so that sustainable development can be feasible. Once the environment is changed, we can start improving our economy. Gradually, it may help solve the conflict between the environment and the economy.

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Some would say that economic growth can improve medicine and that can protect humans' health. I believe that natural treatment is the best cure for all humans. If we breathe clean air, we do not need to spend money to buy medicine or to treat illnesses caused by bad air. Medicines may cause side effects but nature will not. Many countries have spent lots of resources to clean the air. It is a waste of money and why don't we cherish the clean air left? We can't wait until the situation gets irreversible.

The future of our blue clear sky is still unknown at the moment. Clean air can make a city more attractive so people like to live in it and visit it. Clean air can attract more foreign investment and it can help grow the economy. We are all breathing in the same air under the same sky. Let's improve our air quality. Clean air brings us health, economic growth and makes the "Pearl of the Orient" brighter.

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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A Letter to the Editor

5A Tong Kam Fai

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my views on whether teenagers should take slimming products to lose weight or not. Those who support teenagers to take slimming drugs say that they don't need to spend any extra time for shopping, cooking or preparing healthy food, but people who object to it argue that it will pose a harmful effect to our health. For me, I go along with the opponents' opinion about this topic.

To begin with, taking slimming products poses an adverse effect on our physical health. According to a survey conducted by the University of Hong Kong, many of the products on the market contain a chemical substance that can cause high blood pressure, seizures, rapid heartbeat, heart attack and even stroke, which means it can cause an awful consequence to our health. What's worse, most teenagers hold an misunderstanding toward slimming products, that is, taking more slimming drugs means more weight loss. But it is absolutely not true. It will only enhance the side effects on our body, for example, we will feel sick and dizzy, which is of no help for losing weight.

Besides, taking slimming products is a waste of money. The producers of the slimming products always exaggerate the benefits of their drug on the advertisements. However, there's not much evidence to back up those claims. It may be useless after we take it. Also, once we stop taking the drugs, our weight will rapidly return to the way it was before. As a result, you gain nothing and lose a large amount of money.

Some people hold that taking slimming products allows them not to spend any extra time on shopping, cooking or preparing healthy food. Be that as it may, the effects of slimming products are often fraudulent. If they decide to take weight loss supplements and do not change their eating habits and activity levels, there will be only slight effects and totally unsatisfactory. In the end, their weight may remain unchanged.

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With the aim of losing weight effectively, having enough exercise and a well-balanced diet is of utmost importance. Taking slimming products will damage our health seriously and waste our money. I sincerely hope that the government of Hong Kong can promote more about the disadvantages of taking slimming drugs to the teenagers and tell them not to take this way to lose weight.

Yours faithfully,
Felix Tong

Set Sharks Free. No More Fin Dishes in All Restaurants?

SB Leung Sin Ting

Eating shark fins is a Chinese tradition. When people celebrate Lunar New Year, have a wedding banquet, or have dinner with family, they usually eat shark fins. But because of over-hunting sharks, the number of sharks is getting seriously low. Are there pros and cons to have all restaurants in Hong Kong banned from selling shark fin dishes?

Many people disagree with eating shark fins. They have banquets without shark fin dishes. Actually, not eating shark fins is very beneficial to the environment. If you stop eating it, you could save one more shark. Some environmental organizations such as the WWF say shark fin dishes should be banned in all restaurants. The ecosystem has been affected by slaughtering sharks. Certain types of sharks could become extinct.

So, it is better to stop consuming shark fins like the practice in Costa Rica. The Costa Rican government passed a law, which outlawed consuming shark fins and slaughtering sharks. People who break the law must pay a fine. Fishermen can have their licenses revoked. It is good to follow what Costa Rica did to eliminate the shark fins supply in all restaurants. If we do it in Hong Kong, we can increase the quantity of shark species and save the environment to a safe, natural habitat for animals. According to the survey from some environmental groups, 73 million sharks are killed each year. This appalling data proves that we must pay attention to slaughtering sharks.

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If selling shark fin dishes is not allowed in all restaurants, the demand of dried shark fins will decrease. Restaurants usually buy ingredients in bulk, especially dried food. If there are no customers ordering shark fin dishes, the demand will drop and the fishermen will catch fewer sharks. Finally, more sharks will survive. So it is necessary to stop eating or selling shark fin dishes in restaurants.

Some people think that shark fins are rich in collagen, but that is not the case. Scientists have found that shark fins contain a lot of mercury, which is a toxic element. The amount of heavy metal in shark fins is far more than any other deep-sea species. So banning all restaurants from selling shark fin dishes is not just beneficial to the environment, it is also advantageous for our health.

Although many advantages are mentioned, there are also some cons to prohibit shark fin cuisine in all restaurants. First, if the demand for shark fins declines, the work for fishermen will decrease at the same time. If all dried shark fins are prohibited, fishermen will have no work to do and lose their jobs. Apart from this, there are some restaurants that only sell shark fins, particularly in Hong Kong the “food paradise.” If shark fins are banned, all those restaurants will be closed down. The unemployment rate will increase.

In addition, eating shark fin dishes is a Chinese food culture and tradition. People think that in every traditional festival, such as Lunar New Year, shark fin dishes are must-eat food. However, if they are banned, it will affect the tradition and destroy our customs.

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Furthermore, Hong Kong is world-famous because of delicious cuisines. But if citizens or tourists cannot eat Chinese shark fin dishes here, they may think Hong Kong is no longer a food paradise. Thus, this will give Hong Kong a bad image. A good image is very important because tourism is one of the most essential industries in Hong Kong. Therefore, it could harm Hong Kong's economy.

Consequently, banning shark fins needs to be discussed seriously. The government, employers, and citizens should cooperate together until we have a consensus of this hot issue.

A Short Report on Pet Dog Abandonment in Hong Kong

5B Wong Ka Hung, Allen

Dogs have been humans' friends since a long time ago. But nowadays there are lots of people giving up their dogs and creating lots of problems. This has become more and more serious. There was a survey conducted by dog adoption charity Paw Pals, which interviewed two thousand people who had given up their dogs. Paw Pals wanted to find out the reason why the number of dog abandonments had increased. Results of the survey have been presented as follows.

There were 49% of people who did not have time to take care of their dogs. The interviewees were from several Hong Kong schools. They need to go to school, so they do not have much leisure time to take care of their dogs. Also, there were 28% of people that moved to a building where the dogs were not allowed. Because dogs might cause problems -- like their excrement making the environment dirty and producing bacteria -- lots of flats and buildings do not allow dogs. There were other reasons that people abandon dogs. For example, some parents were worried that the dogs would hurt their children. Sometimes the dogs became too big and the house was not big enough to keep them.

With the above situation, I suggest before keeping a dog, you should think clearly and do not make fun of a life. To you, your pet is just a little part of your life, but to your dog, you are everything in its life. Remember, think about whether you can afford them or you will create one more stray dog!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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A Proposal for 5C Class Activities

5C Wong Pui Shan

1. Introduction

I would like to put forward the following proposal for 5C class committees' activities. This proposal will discuss the activities that will be organized this year so as to improve our learning motivation, academic results, inter-personal relationships, and the awareness of charity work and social issues.

2. To improve learning motivation and academic result

2.1 Star of the Month

If anybody does well on a particular subject, he/she will become a "Star of the Month". This is to recognize his/her talent and hard work. In addition, students who find themselves weak in a particular subject can seek advice from the "stars".

2.2 Giving Awards

Students who have satisfying academic performance should be awarded. The prizes can be stationery such as files, pens, notebooks, etc. These items would be useful while we are studying. Moreover, these awards will definitely improve students' motivation to score higher marks.

2.3 Study Group

Many classmates find Study Group useful. They can tackle problems in this period by asking teachers or other students. It is preferable to have a specific study time to avoid wasting time. Not only does this consolidate complicated concepts, it also develops and strengthens our relationships.

3. Build harmonious teacher-student and student-student relationships

3.1 Game Time

Playing games together will narrow the gap between us. Teachers and students will play games together just like friends do. In a normal school day, all of us are separated into different groups to have lessons. Furthermore, our time is fully occupied by study. There is not much time left. Having game time helps build relationships.

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3.2 Mutual encouragement by students

We would like to encourage students to give a hand to each other. For instance, student can lend stationery or teach each other. This will bring us together and build friendships.

4.To raise our awareness of charity work and social issues

4.1 Weekly newspaper reading

As global citizens, we should be familiar with the things that are happening in the world. Reading a newspaper is a good choice. Newspapers summarize the hot issues or news. By reading newspapers, we would undoubtedly gain lots of knowledge.

5.Conclusion

If this proposal is accepted, further details will be decided by all class committees in order to boost participation and reach the most appropriate decisions.

Adventure

5C Cham Chun Hei

Cast

Zack: 19-year-old school boy (Brave and kind)
Kelvin: 18-year-old school boy (Mischievous and curious)
Carol: 18-year-old school girl (Introverted)
Three Ghosts
Host of the Orientation Camp

Scene One - Forest

Host: Thank you for joining us at the first event of the new term of our university. Tonight, the theme is “Adventure,” so we brought you guys here. The forest is a suitable place for you guys to get to know each other with an exciting mood. You can find your group mates by your ticket colour. Now, enjoy yourself tonight. (Everyone is looking at his or her ticket. Zack walks towards Carol.)

Zack: Oh, hi. I’m Zack. Is your ticket red?

Carol: Mmm...yes. Yes.

Zack: What’s your name?

Carol: Carol. My name is Carol.

Zack: All right, it seems that all our group mates are here.

Kelvin: Hey, wait for me! (Kelvin runs over to Zack and Carol.) I have a red ticket too. Wait for me!

Zack: Ok, ok. I’m Zack and this is Carol. What’s your name?

Kelvin: Hi. My name is Kelvin. Sorry for being a little bit late.

Zack: It’s fine. Let’s start our night, shall we?

Carol/Kelvin: OK! (Zack, Carol and Kelvin start to walk into the forest.)

Kelvin: Wow! This is cool man! I have never joined this kind of event before.
Are there any ghosts? (Laughing)

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Zack: I hope not! If this is a scary forest that a ghost is living in, I bet I will scream. (Zack looks at Carol.) Are you ok? You look ill.

Carol: I'm fine. I fear that something will pop out. I'm very scared! (Carol's body is shaking. Kelvin grabs Carol's shoulder. Carol turns and screams.)

Zack: Wow! Wow! Calm down Carol! It's ok.

Carol: I...I felt something touch my shoulder, but when I turned around me, there was nothing. (Carol looks like she is going to cry.)

Zack: It is Ok now. Nothing will touch you anymore. Maybe you'd better walk in front of us. We can protect you.

Carol: Ok.

Kelvin: Don't get serious (laughing). That was my practical joke.

Zack: That's not funny! You almost made Carol cry! (Kelvin stops laughing.)

Kelvin: Sorry. I didn't mean to do that. Sorry Carol.

Carol: Fine... I'm fine now.

(There is some noise coming from the underbrush. Kelvin, Zach and Carol stop walking and Carol screams again.)

Zack: What's that noise? Is this part of the event?

Kelvin: Cool! It sounds like a mystery to me. Can I check it out? (Smiling)

Zack: Are you CRAZY? No! It sounds too strange to me. Plus Carol's emotions are too unstable. We can't just leave her alone. I want to take her back to the hostel first. It'd be better for her to leave.

Kelvin: Ok, but I think there is something near us.

(Carol stops walking)

Kelvin: Carol why did you stop? Are you tired? Shall we...

(A hand grabs Carol's leg from the ground)

Carol: Something is grabbing my leg! I can't move!

Zack: What?

(Carol falls down)

Kelvin: It's a trap!

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Zack: Quick! Grab Carol's hand! (Zack and Kelvin pull Carol out and Carol embraces Zack.)

Carol: Thank you. I'm very scared. I'm so lucky you guys were here on the path with me!

Zack: Helping each other is a duty of friends.

Kelvin: Come on! It isn't time for hug! There's a ghost chasing us!

Zack: Kelvin is right. Can you run?

Carol: YES!

Kelvin: RUN!

Ghost: You can't escape from me! I smell your blood! (Laughing)

Kelvin: No! (Kelvin grabs a piece of wood from the ground and throws it at the ghost.)

Zack: Look! There's a wooden house! Get in there! (They run into the wooden house and lock the door.)

Ghost: HA HA HA!! This door will never stop me! (The ghost strikes the door very hard.)

Kelvin: Close one!

Zack: What a lucky day.

Carol: Guys? Look! (Carol speaks fearfully as two ghosts walk out from the cupboard.)

Zack: Oh, God.

Scene One Ends

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Illegal Downloading

5D Ho Ka Ching

As there are many sorts of ways for people to download books and music albums free of charge, it has been a very common phenomenon. In the past, people had to buy books or music albums so as to fulfil their wants. Yet today, with the advent of computers and cell phones, people can get them wherever they are just by clicking the screen. However, downloading it without charge is illegal. In my opinion, I am in favour of the availability of free download of all books and music albums from the Internet.

Before looking into the reasons for the allowance of free download, some opinions are worth our scrutiny.

First, some people believe that free download of all books and music albums hinders the development of the book industry and music industry. Although the cost of publishing books and songs, like salary of all workers, cannot be gained back owing to free download, there are other ways to make fortune, such as the commercials at the websites or every page of the e-books. By making use of the population flow, benefits can be generated.

Second, there is an argument that free download of all books and albums leads to heavy network load and slows down the network speed throughout Hong Kong. Admittedly, slow network speed obstructs private and business network communication. Nevertheless, over-use of data can be curbed by data limitation enforced by the network service providers. Therefore, this problem can be solved.

Under such circumstances, the worries of opposite view are tackled. In fact, there are many advantages of the free download of all books and albums.

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First and foremost, it allows people to entertain conveniently and inexpensively given that Hong Kong people lead a hectic and costly life. Because of the fast pace of life, people are enthusiastic about time-saving. Free download means no complicated process of payment is needed, such as typing background information, credit card identification etc. Also, instead of going to some certain shops, downloading songs or books on the Internet only requires a few clicks on the keyboard or mobile phones, that saves time grossly. Apart from saving time, money-saving is also of paramount importance. In addition, people can enjoy it anytime they want. Undoubtedly, it saves money and favours people's entertainment.

Moreover, free download of them boosts the creativity of the authors and relevant musicians, as well as enhancing the quality of arts. As it is free download, the opportunities of arts being exposed to the public increases in a great deal. That results in keen competition among them. The relevant inventors may create more high-quality arts to draw people's attention to their works. Consequently, the standard of arts is raised. The phenomenon is compatible with the goal of the government which aims to cultivate Cultural and Creative Industry.

Last but not least, environmental protection can also be achieved on the condition that free download of all books and music albums is allowed. It is a naked fact that books consume paper and CD albums are made of plastic. The production of paper involves deforestation and plastic is non-biodegradable that brings disposal problems. Both of them are not environmentally-friendly. On the contrary, music and book files are free from material production. Needless to say, it has its value in environmental protection.

In a nutshell, I am approved of the suggestion. I hope the government can consider launching a consultation on the legislation.

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A Letter to Myself

5D Lee Tim Yen

Dear Yen,

How are you? I understand you and I know you. You are always positive. You always tell yourself 'I am okay'. Even when you encounter a setback, you still tell yourself 'you can do it'. Although you always want to do the best in life, you are a forgetful girl and you always mess things up. You often forget the things you should do. Pay more attention in life; do not let forgetfulness become your fatal injury. You are stubborn. Others cannot change the things you decide. Try to accept other people's opinions. This will not be harmful to you.

In the coming school year, I hope you can pass all the subjects in the exam and be in the top three for Chinese Language. Previously, you had confidence and high expectations in Chinese language, but you could only reach the fourth level. You feel regretful for this. I hope you can arrive in the classroom before a quarter to eight. You must wake up early. You were always late when you were an S4 student. You are good at Chinese and have a clear direction. Most of your friends do not have a clear direction, so your friends think you are very reliable. You are weak in Liberal Studies because you think it is boring and you do not like this subject. You are weak at sport too. You often fail in P.E.

You are not good at English. Your target is to get level four in English Language in the HKDSE. Your strongest area is listening and your weakest area is speaking. You are afraid of speaking with anyone in a strange language. You are afraid that you may use improper grammar or mispronounce some words. Don't be afraid. Try to speak loudly even if you use improper grammar.

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Yen - pay more attention in class. Read many books in Chinese. Do more revision and wake up early. Improve yourself and always try your best. Do these things and or you may be regretful after five or ten years.

Love,
Me

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Youth Magazine Advertisements

5D Liu Wai Yee

A local celebrity, Rebecca Huang said that ‘advertisement in the youth magazines should be banned.’ However, I partially agree with what she said because I believe that the various advertisements provide both advantages and disadvantages. So, I would like to share with you my views on the pros and cons of advertising here.

My first argument is that advertisements in magazines act as a medium to increase the incentive for consumers to buy goods, especially for young adults. It can increase the sales of good, hence maximize their profit. And this is the way to sell a new product .It helps the economy and therefore provide more jobs in return.

The second advantage of advertisement is it can educate consumers about the new products and services that can help them improve their lives. Advertisements in magazine can also provide entertainments and some fashion related information. It is also convenient for teenagers to read, because they can read it anytime and anywhere, and the youth magazines are so cheap.

Although there are many advantages of having advertisements in the youth magazines, there are some disadvantages that we cannot ignore. Advertisements may provide some misleading information for teenagers, such as the prices and discounts of the products. Advertisements may tempt the youth to buy products that they may not need or they cannot afford. This leads to a higher personal debt, a throwaway society and it will cause a great waste. Although goods are thrown away but more pollution and waste is produced.

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The second disadvantage is that teenagers may become shopaholics because teenagers are very often the main targets of the advertisers. They sometimes lack maturity to choose the products which are good for them. Teenagers would follow the trend blindly, so that they would become shopaholics. These circumstances are very common in girls. Moreover, fast food and snacks are also commonly shown on advertisements, which lead to diabetes and obesity. They will affect teenagers' health.

In conclusion, I do not totally agree with what the local celebrity said, 'Advertisements in the youth magazine should be banned.' I think teenagers have their freedom to read the youth magazines. But at the same time, schools and parents should teach them how to avoid or identify the misleading information to improve their judgment, and be a smart consumer in their daily lives.

Should Books and Music Albums be Downloaded for Free from the Internet?

5D Wong Ching Yiu

I received a comment yesterday. It said that all books and music albums should be available for free download from the Internet. Admittedly, people always download books and songs for free from the Internet but most of them are illegal. And they love to share those files with their friends or the other netizens. However, I disagree with the point of view of the comment. I think books and music albums should not be downloaded for free from the Internet.

To call a spade a spade, there are some advantages that books and music albums are downloaded for free. In the first instance, people do not need to go to bookstores or audio and video shops to buy the books and music albums they like. It helps them save money and time. Also, the books and the songs are in computers or smartphones, thus it saves the place of deposition.

In the next place, we can get what we want easily. Sometimes, some overseas novels and music albums are not sold in the local bookstores or audio and video shops. And then we cannot read or listen to them. It is a bit of a shame. If we can get those from the Internet for free, then we do not need to worry about it.

Even though there are some benefits, there are also several disadvantages.

First of all, if it is available for free download from the Internet; it is a way of encroaching on the copyright. Intellectual property guarantees the creators' right and interests so as to encourage them to create more works continuously. Hence, if it is available, the sales of the works will decrease and also the proceeds. And it will demotivate the creators from creating the books and songs. As a result, all of us will lose the entertainments and the culture.

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Furthermore, your computer will be infected with virus with ease. You download many files from the Internet but you do not know if the files include virus. If it does, the hacker can get your information and maybe you will have some losses (your personal profile, the password of your bank account...)

Eventually, it will ruin the image of Hong Kong. The investors might think that Hong Kong does not attach importance to the knowledge industry. Then the investment of knowledge industry will go down and it brings a negative effect to Hong Kong's economy.

I disagree that the books and music albums should be available for free download from the Internet because it will reduce the creators' motivation to write new books or make new albums, the personal profile will be stolen easily and it brings adverse effects to Hong Kong's economy.

In the end, I hope that all of you can understand how hard the creators are working while they are creating their works. If you can realize it, just go to buy their works to support them!

Let's Talk about the Problem of Being Teased at School

5D Wong Ching Yiu

Yesterday, someone posted a comment to me. His classmates had been teasing him because he is overweight and it made him confused and bewildered.

This isn't rare at school. This is one of the teen issues that we often see. Students always tease other students who are overweight or too short. Ethnic minorities are also targeted. Some students don't know how to respect others. I think that this is the major reason why they always tease people who are overweight, too short, etc.

In this case, losing weight is a way to solve the problem. Although it just treats the symptoms and not the disease, it can solve the problem of teasing and make you healthy. It kills two birds with one stone.

Nevertheless, even if you start now, losing weight takes a long time. I suggest you try to ignore them. The more attention you pay to it, the more students will tease you. Thus, you should ignore their behavior.

Furthermore, the person who posted that comment also mentioned that it is very difficult to make friends at his new school. That's normal too. The friendship between your classmates has been fixed from the beginning. Hence, you will find that Student A always talks to Student B and C but seldom talks to other students. It is just like a small circle of people. And with classmates teasing you, you feel like it's difficult to make friends with your classmates.

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Though the situation seems tough, I think it is not bad at all. First, you can try to talk to those who haven't teased you or those who are quiet in class. Maybe some of those who haven't teased you can accept you and are willing to make friends with you. And the quiet ones aren't usually the cool ones. There are thirty to forty students in the class and there will be some who don't have many friends. Perhaps you can try to talk to them to see if they want to be friends. Then you can make friends with those who want to make friends with you.

Why do I think that this circumstance isn't bad at all? It's simple. Those who are teasing you have just reflected that they are superficial. They aren't the people you should be friends with. Under the circumstances, you will know who your true friends are! True friends are those who will be your friends and accept your weight problem.

These are the solutions I can think of to solve your problems. I hope these would be helpful to you. Besides, if someone has other ideas, he or she is welcome to post a comment here!

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Think Twice before You Leap

5D Wong Wan Si, Natalie

Most Hong Kong people like keeping dogs. However, some of them abandon their dogs after a short period of time. This behavior seriously increases dog abandonment in Hong Kong. With this increasing figure, we should discuss the reasons for this situation in greater detail. A survey has been published by dog adoption charity Paw Pals. Through the survey, this organization now knows why people in Hong Kong abandon their pet dogs. Let me tell you more about this survey.

First of all, among the two thousand people interviewed in this survey, forty-nine percent of people claimed that they do not have time to take care of a dog, leading it to be the most common reason for dog abandonment. Twenty-eight percent of people said that they moved to a building where dogs are forbidden. For instance, public housing is one location where dogs are not allowed. When the dogs' masters move to these buildings, they choose to abandon their dogs. Besides the above reasons, nine percent of people said that they were worried about the safety of their young children. Another six percent of people said that their dog had become too big for their flat.

After reading this report, I really want to express my opinion and my feeling towards this behavior. I think some of the owners are so immature. They do not think clearly before keeping pets. Before you buy or adopt pets, you should ask yourself the following questions. 'Am I sure I have enough time and space to keep pets?' Being an owner, you should offer affection and patience to your pets. You should also be accountable and remember that keeping pets is a lifetime commitment. However, many owners lack a sense of responsibility. They should know that dog abandonment is an irresponsible guardianship. If you really feel you are not suitable to be an owner, you should not keep pets. Remember - respect animal rights!

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Internet Free Downloading of Music Albums and Books

5D Sheung Chin Ching

In this day and age, people use their electronic gadgets to download books and music albums for entertainment universally. Downloading from the Internet has become a way for communication and fun. It has become a controversial topic in the general public and the record company if all books and music albums should be available for free downloads. As far as I am concerned, free download of all books and music albums are certainly beneficial to the general public and the record companies.

First of all, the singers and writers can gain popularity from the Internet. People who do not support this way normally indicate that it is not fair to the singers and writers. They point out that profit which the original producers of books and music albums made will decline if people refuse to pay money for the products. In the age of advanced technology, the way which the producer gains money has been completely changed. For instance, people gain money by the transactions on the Internet instead of selling products face to face. The producers of all songs and music albums can gain popularity from the Internet. The Internet is a vast bank of information and a huge platform for business. The producers could be famous on the Internet and create opportunities for them. After they had gained popularity and support on the Internet, they can earn money easily.

In addition, people are concerned that the industry of literature and music will be damaged and wrecked up. Oppositely, there is another source of income for them. Also, it can promote local creation to the international platform. People around the world can download local creation for free on the Internet. It is a community of artists from all over the world and they can share and develop ideas almost instantaneously. As a result, the industry of local creation can be strengthened with the aid of global cosmopolitanism.

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Downloading all books and music albums, not only does it benefit the industry of literature and music , there is still a chain of advantages to the general public.

Also, people with different classes in the society can enjoy reading books and listening to music for free. In the past, it was a heavy burden for poor family or kids to buy a book and a CD from shops. They usually lacked money to buy them for studying and entertainment. Nowadays, almost every family gets an electronic device for surfing the Internet. Therefore, they can enjoy reading books and listening to music for free even if they are in poverty. It provides the students who live in poor family with a better source of studying and a more comfortable life.

On the other hand, free download of all books and music albums from the Internet makes people's life more convenient. It attracts people to surf the Internet for reading and listening to music instead of turning to traditional books and CDs. They can use electronic gadgets to download them from the Internet in everywhere, for example, MTR, bus stops or restaurants etc. It can relieve their pressure. All in all, it helps bring up an atmosphere and trend of reading books and listening to the music from the Internet. Internet users can have a vast choice of books and music albums which can be downloaded from the Internet for free.

Thirdly, downloading books and music albums from the Internet can preserve the environment from deforestation and chemical waste. Most people will be more enthusiastic about using Internet for reading and listening to music instead of traditional books and CDs due to the free fee. Consequently, the demand for paper and chemical materials would decrease. There is a plenty of trees and chemical materials which can be conserved . Meanwhile people can save the space at home. Traditional books and CDs occupy space for storage . However, you can save digital books and music albums in your computer or electronic gadgets. In brief, environment and space can be saved when people are using their electronic gadgets for reading and listening to music.

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On the whole, free download of all books and music albums benefits the society and business companies. It can completely change people's lives and habits. Everyone has the opportunity to read and listen to music albums. Despite the free download of books and music albums from the Internet, we still need to respect and give support to the original producers of those works. Also, we should treasure the chance of reading and listening to music and to make good use of them!

PRIDE IN OUR WORDS

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Should Shark Fin Soup be Banned in Hong Kong?

5E Lai Sin Ying

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to give my opinion on whether Hong Kong should ban shark fin soup in response to an article written by Jack Smith. In this letter, I will look at some of the arguments for and against the ban.

First, I would like to talk about the reasons why Hong Kong should ban shark fin soup. The reasons are twofold. One reason is that shark finning is cruel. Shark fin soup is made from a variety of shark fins. The shark meat itself isn't worth much money and as a result it is often just thrown back into the ocean. This is a complete waste. Sharks take many years to mature and produce relatively few offspring. They are vulnerable to overfishing.

Another reason is that the fins are indeed tasteless. It is the soup that gives the dish its flavor. However, people will still choose to eat it or offer it at a ridiculously high market price just to show off. This is one of the most mysterious attributes of Chinese culture. In other words, eating it is like blindfolding our minds and demonstrating our ignorance.

It is clear that there are strong reasons to support the ban. However, there are also several arguments to consider. Why shouldn't shark fin soup be banned in Hong Kong? One argument is that Hong Kong is a free society. We don't need to ban this part of Chinese culture. Some restaurant owners hold the view that eating shark fin soup is normal. People like to eat shark fin soup for festive occasions. Eating shark fin soup is in fact a part of our food culture. It is not a good idea to suddenly change this thousand-year-old culture.

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It is also argued that having too many regulations is not a good thing. Making it illegal to serve shark fin soup will just push the product into the black market, raising its value even higher. If local governments do pass legislation, the shark fin ban is so specific and it becomes suspect. Why do we focus on this particular fish? Bluefin tuna has long been endangered and yet is still legal to eat and sell.

It can therefore be seen that there is no clear-cut answer to the question of whether shark fin soup should be banned in Hong Kong. My own opinion is that it is better to ban shark fin soup in Hong Kong because the most important thing is that humans should maintain biodiversity. We should learn to have a sustainable world that the next generation can enjoy as well. So shark fin really shouldn't be considered food.

Yours faithfully,
Krystal Lai

A Letter to the Editor

5E Tang Yui Sze

Dear Editor,

In response to Jack Smith's letter dated 3 September, 2012, I would like to share with you my views on the pros and cons of banning shark fin soup. Nowadays, many couples want to use shark fin soup to celebrate their wedding ceremony. They think that it is a good way to pay respect to their guests. But many shark conservationists do not support this behavior. There are conflicting opinions about this issue.

One advantage of banning shark fin soup in Hong Kong is that it can stop the killing of sharks. The demand for sharks has increased, and shark finning is extremely cruel. If the demand for shark fins continues to increase, sharks will become extinct soon. They are on the verge of extinction now. Another advantage is that saving sharks can preserve the bio-diversity of our ocean. I believe that no one wants to see the ocean becomes more polluted. If we do not ban this, it will greatly impact shark numbers in the wild and it will affect the food chain.

It is clear that there are strong reasons for banning shark fin soup in Hong Kong. However, there are also several disadvantages to consider. Actually, eating shark fin soup is a part of Chinese culture. Banning shark fin will also affect the economy of restaurants and hotels; they will lose business and customers. I also think having too many regulations is not a good thing. Hong Kong is the world's largest shark fin soup trading center; about 10,000 tons of fins are traded though the city. So, if a ban is passed, it will seriously disturb the market for shark fin soup in Hong Kong. Also, it could threaten the livelihood of fishermen.

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Clearly, there are advantages and disadvantages associated with banning shark fin soup in Hong Kong. The above points show that there are strong arguments for and against this issue. Finally, I think we should protect sharks and tell others not to eat shark fin soup. We can create a website to talk about protecting sharks and educating people about this issue.

Yours faithfully,
Yue Sze Tang

Should Shark Fin Soup be Banned in Hong Kong?

5E Tsu Wan Yi

Dear Editor,

In response to Jack Smith's letter dated 3 Sept 2012, I would like to address the issue of banning shark fin soup in Hong Kong. I would like to discuss the pros and cons of banning shark fin soup in Hong Kong.

One reason that shark fin soup should be banned in Hong Kong is that sharks are endangered species. Also, they are on the verge of distinction. Since the demand for shark fin soup in Asia has increased, it leads to over-fishing of sharks and it has reduced their population. If the demand for shark fins continues to increase, sharks will become extinct very soon.

Also, the practice of shark finning is cruel. Sharks are 'finned' alive and their bodies are dumped back into the ocean. How irresponsible this is! It is immoral and it damages the ocean ecosystem and impacts bio-diversity. Although shark fin soup is essential in traditional Chinese banquets, people can actually replace shark fins with something else.

However, this is a personal choice. Many people think that sharks are not endangered species and they should have the choice of what they eat. One argument is that not only Asian countries catch sharks. Shark fishing also occurs in other western countries like Spain, the UK, France and Portugal. Shark fin soup should not be banned in Hong Kong because shark fishing occurs all over the world. So, sharks must not be endangered species. Another argument is that sharks have been killed for a long time and they are also killed for their meat apart from their fins. So people should not feel guilty about having shark fin soup.

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My own opinion about shark fin soup is that we should not eat it. We should protect sharks and bio-diversity in the ocean. Shark fin soup should be banned in Hong Kong. Laws and regulations are required to protect endangered species. Everyone should be responsible to the Earth and not to damage its bio-diversity.

Yours faithfully,
Renee Hsu

A Letter of Reply

6A Lee Ka Yui

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter. It is great to hear from you again. Everything here is fine except that I'm quite worried about your situation. In fact, it is not good to hear that Jason is gambling now.

As we both know, Jason puts all his might to the thing he is indulging in. It will take a while to change his bad habit now. So my first piece of advice is to spend more time with Jason. Seems simple, right? Since a habit isn't something you can change in a day or two, why not spend more time with Jason? Talk with him about why he shouldn't gamble; ask him why he started gambling. The Jason I know isn't someone who would become a bad guy. He is always dreaming about heroes and knights. There must be something that motivated him to fall into the pit of gambling. Go and find that problem and think of a way out with your parents.

Next, in my memory Jason liked basketball a lot. He was also talented in it. Did he gamble his interest away? My second piece of advice is that I suggest you help Jason pick up something else as a hobby -- maybe basketball again. Give Jason another aim where he can put his concentration and effort. Basketball is much healthier than gambling. It can build up Jason's muscles and help him have a better relationship with his friends. There should be no reason for him to reject basketball and choose gambling. If he says he doesn't like basketball anymore, find something else that he is interested in like swimming or cycling,

There is another thing you must be alert to. It is Jason's friends. As I have just said, Jason wouldn't just jump into gambling all of a sudden. There must be a reason behind it and I also believe that there must be someone behind the whole thing. I suggest you check whether Jason's friends invited him to gamble. Although Jason may think his friends are very trustworthy, I'm still worried about them. In order to prevent Jason from going further into gambling, we must find out about the people that introduced gambling to Jason. We must separate Jason from them as soon as possible. Therefore, you must keep an eye on what kind of friends Jason makes.

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I know it maybe hard for you to change Jason at this very moment, but you must be patient. Jason is your brother and he is the youngest, so he still has lots to learn. Give him some more time to learn from his mistakes. I hope my advice is helpful to you. If you have anything you are worried about, you are always welcome to write to me again, my friend. See you next time and I look forward to good news about Jason.

Best wishes,
Chris

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Factors Resulting in Declining English Standards

6B Chui Cheuk Fung, Frankie

People always say that university graduates' English standard has declined. Many employers express their concern over graduates' English standard, which they find disappointing and much below expectation. What's wrong?

The fact is that our university graduates' English standard is really declining. There are several reasons for this. First of all, many secondary schools in Hong Kong have Putonghua education, which means that English is regarded less important. Such schools prefer teaching in Chinese so that their students can understand what they learn. Students have too little time to speak and listen to English.

Second, teenagers who are always surfing the Internet may fail to distinguish between formal and informal English. Thanks to Facebook, MSN and various discussion forums, we have different platforms to express our views or communicate with friends. Quick typing is a factor that means we use English at a low standard. What's more, several websites may have a substandard form of English, but you find nothing wrong.

The third reason is that Hong Kong students tend to focus less on studies nowadays. In their daily life, they communicate in Chinese instead of English. They won't speak in English unless they have English lessons.

Nevertheless, it is true that English is important in workplace. We may need to communicate with foreigners or have conferences in English. As a language that most people use in the world, English is the key for effective and successful communication with foreigners. English is required for formal documents like emails or letters. So having a high standard of English can help you secure a job. It proves your academic level and ability to do well in the workplace.

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So what can universities do to enhance their graduates' English standard? From my point of view, universities can hold more English enhancement classes for all students so as to enrich their English knowledge. Of course, such classes should be compulsory classes in order to ensure that future graduates will have a reasonably good English standard.

Besides, universities can set up a buddy programme for their students, in which students are able to meet foreign peers. Through communicating with foreigners, students can practise speaking English more in their daily life. In addition, universities can provide more resources, such as English videos, English books, or setting up a multimedia centre for students who are eager to learn more about English or other subjects.

To conclude, the most effective and easiest way to enhance graduates' English standard is to promote English at university. Action should be taken as soon as possible.

The Truman Show: A Filmed Life

6A Chung Chun Kit

The Truman Show is an old movie that was filmed in the 80s. It is one of the greatest movies in the world, not only because of its actors or the high budget but also the creative plot in those days.

It is a romantic movie but it really gets you to think: “who am I?” This movie is about a boy that has been filmed by a movie company since he was born. The boy was named Truman. He had no idea that the movie company had created his friends, his parents and even his home or that they were showing his life to make a profit. Yet, a kind, sweet girl in Truman’s life – a waitress -- accidentally told Truman that his life was not real. That was the first time Truman started to doubt everything around him and tried to escape from his so-called city, which was indeed a huge studio.

Although the plot seems a little bit complex, it is a movie that suits everybody, from teenage girls to movie experts. The teenage girls may get obsessed with the romantic relationship between the boy and the girl. Movie professors will discover the hidden meaning of the movie. How can I tell that the world, my life, things, or even myself are real? Well, this movie can definitely give you an answer.

Though the plot appeals to me the most, the sound effects and the music are perfect! You will not believe how catchy the songs were, considering it is a movie from the 80s. I even downloaded the original soundtracks of the movie on my iPod! I’m sure you will be fascinated by the music too after watching the film.

Peter Louis directed *The Truman Show* and he received the Oscar for Best Director. In addition, the actor who played Truman’s role was nominated for Best Actor. Apart from this, it is rated over 8.7 points on the Movie Lovers website and is “highly recommended” by Movie Magazine.

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Personally, I also recommend it to my friends as it is related to us, the youth. We are similar to Truman. We have lots of questions and are curious about the big world. If you want to think about yourself, watch it! If you want to see the romance, watch it! If you want to experience an unexpected life, watch it!

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A Debate Speech

6D Joanne Fung

Good morning everyone. I am the first speaker of the opposition team. I am here to convince you to oppose the motion that “All Secondary school students should be required to join a sports team at school”. We have four strong arguments to present to you. I will cover the first two and my teammates the other two.

First, the requirement would result in a heavier burden to students. Nowadays, most Hong Kong’s students are under huge academic pressure. All of the students need to face a lot of examinations and homework. Is it true? Yes. As a student, I have to do many things within a week. For example, homework, quizzes, dictations and also revision are all the “missions” I have to face. This is the case not only for me but also for everyone. As a senior student, we even have to face the public examination later. How can we join a sports team and do the preparation for the public examination at the same time? If every secondary school student is required to join a sports team at school, how heavy will the burden for students be? It is something important that we have to consider.

Second, this requirement would restrict students’ development. Why am I saying that? I believe different students have different interests. They also have different abilities to work on different tasks. If I am an outgoing and sporty person, of course I am willing and able to join a sports team at school. But if I am not interested in or able to play sports, can the school require and order me to join? Moreover, there are other activities at school and not everyone is interested in sports. If all the secondary students were required to join a sports team, what would happen to those students who were interested in dancing, painting or singing? Should the school limit and restrict their development and make them spend time doing things they do not enjoy? Should the schools interfere with students cultivating and developing their own interests? Students might feel their time is being exploited and that they are being forced to give up their real talent.

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In conclusion, we strongly believe that secondary school students should not be required to join a sports team at school because of the heavier burden to the students and the restriction on their development. Now I will leave the evidence for this to the next speaker. Thank you.

A Speech

6D Leung Kai Him

Good afternoon my fellow students. Today, I'm glad to be here to deliver a speech regarding the importance of outstanding communication skills in the workplace. As you know, I'm an intern salesperson at a toy company. My responsibilities, as the title implies, include promoting our company's products to customers. Not only do I have to manage and maintain the operation of the shop, but I also need to persuade customers to purchase our products. These precious experiences have given me inspiration about the benefits that communication brings to a career. In order to provide deeper insights into workplace communication and the benefits from it, I would like to share my experiences and opinions with all of you.

To begin, it is necessary to inform you how essential communication is in the workplace. As employees, we all strive to perform well so as to win the trust of our employers. Undoubtedly, the way we gain the trust of our superiors is through our ability to achieve high sales and to manage the company's operation effectively. Seeing this, I believe that outstanding communication skills are the key to fulfilling this goal. First, strong communication skills can help us build a close relationship with our customers. We can persuade customers to purchase our goods, which increases sales. Furthermore, if we have equipped ourselves with better communication skills, the instruction we issue to others will be more concrete and feasible. Effective operations management can be practised. Therefore, effective communication skills are not only beneficial to our career but also vital in every workplace.

Although effective communication is important in the workplace, some miscommunications still occur. Before we deal with this situation, it is advisable for us to realize the causes behind it. The first reason for miscommunication is poor management skills. As you know, one of the major functions of management is communication. Poor performance by the management means that there were unclear instructions given or non-specific infor-

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mation provided. We do not understand what we are required to finish, so miscommunication creates imperfect information. In addition, miscommunication is attributed to the indifferent attitude of employees. In fact, it is hard to ensure that no miscommunication will occur. However, putting an end to miscommunication is the responsibility of employees. Hence, poor management performance and the indifferent attitude of staff bring about miscommunication problems.

After pointing out the reason for miscommunication, it is necessary for me to recommend some suggestions that help avoid miscommunication. First, I recommend that we cultivate critical thinking. This ability enables us to realize mistakes that are incurred during communicating and rectify them immediately. Furthermore, we should take the initiative to communicate with others, so as to ensure that the messages given and received are correct. Try to be active in all things related to ourselves, and communicate with others actively. I strongly believe that miscommunication can be tackled through adjusted behavior.

Lastly, I genuinely hope that my sharing has been beneficial to all of you and you have been inspired. This is the end of my sharing. Thank you.

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A Letter to the Editor

6E Wong Ho Yee, Doris

Dear Editor,

I am writing concerning the International Music Festival proposed by The Leisure and Cultural Services Department. As a resident living near the proposed venue, I have some opinions about both the benefits and potential problems of this festival.

First at all, the International Music Festival can be educational, motivating people to learn about music culture. Through taking part in the festival, people can learn about music culture from all over the world, such as rap music from America, Korean pop-music and so on. By knowing more about music culture, Hong Kong citizens may be interested in learning about or creating music. It can inspire the creativity of people.

Moreover, the Festival can release the pressure of Hong Kong citizens, as it is a big leisure activity. Because Hong Kong is an international city where a lot of expatriates reside here, it will be great for them to join the International Music Festival. Then they can listen to music from their countries. Not only overseas residents, but also local residents, can relax their tired bodies and spirits by listening to world-renowned musicians.

Despite the above benefits, there are also some potential problems of such a festival. The first one is the noise pollution problem. As the proposed venue is near a residential area, the noise of the music festival may affect the residents who live in the vicinity. For instance, the International Music Festival may feature rock music. Its volume may be too loud for many people, especially the elderly and children. If the authorities take no action to tackle this problem, it may provoke complaints from the neighbourhood.

In addition, traffic and environment problems could be brought about too. Inviting a lot of well-known musicians to join the festival will mean many reporters and citizens attending the venue. The huge number of participants and attendees may cause traffic jams. Also, having a huge amount of

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people in the same place causes environmental problems. Take Mid-Autumn Festival as an example. People leave a lot of rubbish in Victoria Park. The same thing may appear again if authorities are not well prepared.

Therefore, it is essential to suggest some ways to make the festival run smoothly and successfully. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department can request more rubbish bins in the venue so people can throw rubbish away more conveniently. Furthermore, they can schedule musicians with loud shows in the afternoon in order to reduce the noise for nearby residents late at night.

Without doubt, the International Music Festival is a great idea and constructive to both the citizens and culture of Hong Kong. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the authorities play important roles in this event. I hope they will take my suggestions and that the event is successful.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong



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