

SPEECH GALA

Awards

Night Activities

And more joyful and fruitful learning experiences inside!



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The English Department Magazine of Ying Wa Primary School.

SPEECH GALA 2021 ONLINE



The Shows Did Go On...

The pandemic didn't stop us from experiencing another fruitful year of English adventure!



*"One-to-one" Tablet
Scheme Begins.*

*Image:
First Place Winners and
Popularity Awardees of
Speech Gala 2021 Online*



Leung Kwan Yat 5B

Finally, I did it! I won in the English Speech Festival this year after participating in the Speech Festival for the past three years! "Never Give Up" may be one of the reasons that led me to success.

For the preparation of this competition, I tried to understand the content and the feeling of the poem. I practised many times at school and home. I believe it's important to practise more in order to get familiarisation and behave confidently in the competition. "Practice makes perfect". It's really true for me. So practising is very important!

Ms Candy, my training teacher, taught me a lot of skills for this competition. Although sometimes she is very strict with me on pronunciation, like the "-s" sound and "-ther" sound, I learnt a lot from her and really want to thank her for her guidance and patience.

Paco Wong 6B

Hello everyone, today I will share with you about my verse speaking strategies and tips. And there are three points that you have to BEWARE of.

Firstly, the volume of your voice. I notice that many students have a problem of having a loud voice at first but they end with a very low voice. I have seen many competitors who have a really good start and then slowly become very quiet, at last, no one can hear what they are saying.

Secondly, pronunciation. MANY people overlook the importance of pronunciation and think body movement is the most important. Not to lie, I got two Third Places before because my pronunciation was not good enough. So, remember to know all the words in the poem first before training.

Lastly, presentation. For me, I like to present the poem face to face but not in a video like this year. You need to prepare for any sudden situation if you are performing on the stage. But, DO NOT GET NERVOUS WHEN YOU ARE PERFORMING!

These are my personal tips for verse speaking. Hope you all can get a better result!

A Video Festival!

The 72nd Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival was probably the most special one we have ever experienced. All performances were submitted as videos but still, our boys entered the contest with the same enthusiasm as before. Our boys had remarkable results with **14 Winners, 24 Second Places and 33 Third Places!** Congratulations to all our awardees and surely, we will try our best to participate in the event and get even better results next year.

Solo WINNERS List Solo Second Places

- A. Chan Ching Hei Bill 2C
- B. Lam Yick Lai Ivor 2D
- C. Fu Man Hei Hayden 3A*
- D. To Hei Wai 3B
- E. Kou Sze Chai Bowie 3B
- F. Leung Kwan Yat 5B*
- G. Lau Kwun Hang Sky 5C
- H. Lau Hui Tou 5D
- I. Cheng Wing Lun 5E
- J. Michael Hui 6A
- K. Wong Pak Ho Paco 6B
- L. Nicholas Derek Li 6B
- M. Su Yue Sheng 6E*
- N. Su Yue Sheng 6E**

* scored 90+

**Awarded in 2 different categories

- 1. Ho Hong Yin 1A
- 2. Li Hoi Nok 1A
- 3. Adrian Hon 1B
- 4. Nicholas Tse 1B
- 5. Fong Koon Chung 1B
- 6. Chan Tin Long 1D
- 7. Chan Chun Tin 1E
- 8. Chan Ka Pak 2A
- 9. Hung Ka Chun 2A
- 10. Jaden Lee 2D
- 11. Xavier Ho 3C
- 12. Lo Man Pan 3C
- 13. Bryceton Mo 3D
- 14. So Yu Hang 3E
- 15. Lester Chung 4A
- 16. Yuen Hei Wang 4B

- 17. Chau Chun Yin 4C
- 18. Law Cheuk Tung 4D
- 19. Anson Tam 4E
- 20. Samuel Wong 5C
- 21. Leung Yui Hang 5C
- 22. Caleb Lee 6B
- 23. Wong Pak Ho Paco 6B
- 24. Cheng Pak Yuen 6C

Scan the QR code for some winning performances.



Dr Lee published an article in the UK-based drama magazine "Word Matters" (summer 2021) with the title "A Video Festival Under the Pandemic". He comments on the special Video Submission Mode of the Speech Festival this year and describes the way he prepared a few secondary school students for this new format of speech and drama competition.

Scan the QR code for the full article.



SPEECH Gala 2021 Online



Speech Gala 2021 adjudicator Dr Gary Harfitt comments on the performances through videos.

“I would just like to thank everyone... every boy who has participated in this event... all of the teachers, who I know must have spent time listening to all these pieces. Congratulations Dr Lee on yet another outstanding Speech Gala! I’m always impressed by the consistency and quality of your work. And thank you Principal Chan for supporting this wonderful activity... I always value Speech Festival and Speech Galas like this and public speaking competitions so highly because they bring so many skills out in our students. Not just language skills, pronunciation

skills or reading skills... I think one of the biggest things students take from this is ‘confidence’, and growth...

“My message to the P.6 is when you get to secondary schools, carry on, keep going, keep doing these things, keep learning and keep growing. Those of you who have taken part for the first time, take part again and again because you will never lose by taking part... Never be afraid! Nothing is ever as scary as you think it’s going to be. You lose nothing by participating in these events and you gain everything!”

**Dr Gary Harfitt
Principal, Good Hope School
(Secondary Section)**



Scan the QR code for the complete list of awardees.



The winners are...

- | | |
|---|--|
| P.1 Verse Speaking
1 st Place — Lee Sze Chai 1C
Pop. Award — Adrian Hon 1B | P.4 Prose Reading
1 st Place — Roderick Yuen 4B
Pop. Award — Roderick Yuen 4B |
| P.2 Verse Speaking
1 st Place — Chow Pak Yiu 2B
Pop. Award — Hui Lok Tim 2D | P.5 Verse Speaking
1 st Place — Sky Lau 5C
Pop. Award — Randolph Cheng 5E |
| P.3 Verse Speaking
1 st Place — So Yu Hang 3E
Pop. Award — So Yu Hang 3E | P.5 Public Speaking
1 st Place — Tony Choy 5C
Pop. Award — Tony Choy 5C |
| P.3 Prose Reading
1 st Place — Tang Cheuk Yiu 3C
Pop. Award — Mok Yui To 3D | P.6 Verse Speaking
1 st Place — Nicholas Derek Li 6B
Pop. Award — Su Yue Sheng 6E |
| P.4 Verse Speaking
1 st Place — Auryn Chan 4A
Pop. Award — Law Cheuk Tung 4D | P.6 Public Speaking
1 st Place — Marcus Tsang 6D
Pop. Award — Alfred Ng 6B |



Some boys' electrified reactions when knowing they won a prize at the Gala!

篤信 善行



Snapshots of the magical Night Activities, 14-16 Apr 2021

What a Night!

On 14th April 2021, our school hosted a night event. Our class was so excited. We had been talking about it since we got there!

The event started! We quickly rushed to the first area. What a coincidence! It was our classroom! We started in our own classroom! We were doing a dance off.

We were so excited that we used the wrong staircase! Luckily, our "Traffic Guide" corrected us, or our marks would have been deducted.

Next, we went to the soccer field. We put on our gloves and did what we do best in PE class – running. Well, that was a sure win but we got a question wrong, so we didn't get full marks. Then, we did my favourite activity – being blind. I always wanted to know how blind people feel and I hope I won't be one because that would be terrible. Then, we went on the river float – we almost spent all of our cash on that.

Finally, we went back to the hall. The principal told us that we won! I was so happy! At last, I fell asleep on my way back home.

Jethro Lam 4A

On 14th April, I arrived at school at 5:30pm sharp to attend the "Ying Wa Primary School Night Activity". It is a big event held every two years. I could hardly wait for it to begin.

My classmates, teachers and I first sang a theme song written by YWPS teachers. The lyrics were very encouraging. Our moods were all uplifted by the music. Everyone clapped and cheered after the chorus. Before that, I didn't know that voices of teachers were that charming!

Then, there came the eleven exciting games that the teachers delicately designed for us. One of them was absolutely unforgettable!

The game was not only unforgettable but also a very creative one! It made you feel as if you were blind. The classroom was pitch-black. My teammates and I entered the classroom. We felt our way through the maze. Then, cards were given by teachers; we all successfully sensed the alphabet printed on the cards by touching. With all the information combined, the correct phrase "The Way" was revealed. What a creative thought it was!

Finally, we gathered at the hall for the awards. Our group won nothing, but I was very satisfied as we tried our best. I am also looking forward to participating in the next Night Activities.

Granville Chan 4E

The Way To Your Destination

Did you have what it takes to pass the classic "Buzz Wire" game?



Three months ago, we participated in the Night Activities and they were really memorable to me!

In all those activities, my favourite one was the activity which we experienced to be blind in a pitch-black room. The room was like a maze, and we needed to find our way out by walking with a stick to let us know if there was anything in front of us. I was a little frightened in the room, as I couldn't see anything at all! It was also hard to communicate because when a person talked, we didn't know who that person was talking to.

I also liked the activity in the English Room titled "The Way to Your Destination". Firstly, we played a circuit game in which we needed to let a rod with a metal loop go through a wire without touching it. When we accidentally touched the wire using the stick, it would beep

for two seconds, and we couldn't let the stick touch the wire more than twice. It was quite challenging, and the first few times I wasn't successful. Then, one of my groupmates helped me, and eventually we did it. Secondly, we needed to make a sentence using four given adjectives. My groupmates tried to make one but the

...I learnt that we need to be grateful for what we have...

adjectives were not used accurately. Then, Mr Ching allowed us to use only three of them, and eventually I made a sentence using them.

After this experience, I learnt that we need to be grateful for what we have, and that we don't have disabilities. I also want to thank Principal Chan, teachers and parent volunteers for organising these wonderful activities. We had so much fun!

Chan Wun Tung 5A

Awardees of YWPS English Writing Competition 2021



A Journey to Mars

Adrian Hon 1B 

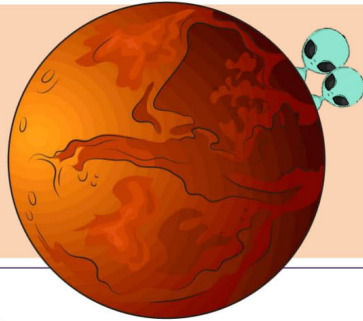
It is such a long way to Mars!

I ride a spaceship to Mars for my Christmas holiday. I meet two aliens on my way to Mars. Their names are Alien YING and Alien WA. Alien YING is slim, but Alien WA is plump. They have a giant eye, eight hooked noses, three triangular mouths and no ears.

We celebrate Christmas together on Mars. I bring a yummy turkey and some candy canes from Earth. We share the food. After the party, Alien YING takes me to the volcano and Alien WA helps me take a photo. The volcano is super tall and the view from up there is very nice.

We have a lovely day. Before I go back to Earth, I give them my email address so we can keep in touch.

I enjoy my journey so much! I wish I can go again because I want to make more friends.



	P. 1	P. 2	P. 3	P. 4	P. 5	P. 6
1 st	Adrian Hon 1B	Karson Wai 2C	Matthias Lau 3B	Travis Law 4D	Ambrose Wong 5D	Arthur Chan 6E
2 nd	Chan Tin Long 1D	Jayden Ngai 2C	Cyrus Ng 3C	Zenith Lee 4E	Anthony Pan 5D	Gordon Cheng 6E
3 rd	Godwin Chan 1B	Chester Tse 2B	Marcel Tsim 3B	Bosco Lee 4A	Ethan Wu 5E	Aden Su 6E
Merit	Lucas Wong 1B	Cantus Tam 2A	Anders Kan 3A	Niles Ng 4A	Edgar Tsang 5B	Cyrus Soo 6A
	Decus Chu 1C	Parker Chan 2A	Karlos Ching 3B	Ethan Ngai 4B	Karson Yau 5B	Nicholas Lo 6A
	Cody Tang 1E	Yi Cai 2B	Preston Sze 3D	Roderick Yuen 4B	Cedric Ho 5C	Alfred Ng 6B
	Cyrus Lai 1E	Jacoe Cheung 2D	Angus Ngai 3E	Daniel Leong 4C	Yau Cheuk Lok 5D	Eros Tung 6B
	James Tam 1E	Kenny Zhang 2E	Owen Ng 3E	Alvin Lee 4D	Jensen Chung 5E	Timothy Leung 6B

The Journey to Hokkaido

Travis Law 4D 

Last summer, my family and I went to Hokkaido in Japan which is my favourite city. It was my first time there. We took a night flight to get there.

On the second day, we sailed a boat to watch seagulls and sea creatures. The coral, sea urchins, jellyfish and starfish were amazing. In the afternoon, we visited a lavender farm. The scenery was gorgeous. We could see many types of lavender there. We could also eat lavender ice-cream. The taste of the ice-cream was so unforgettable.

On the third day, we went to a cherry garden to pick cherries. We loved the tasty cherries very much. After that, we went to feed the bears. Some of them even knew how to perform yoga. They were really cute and smart.

On the last day, we went to take a hot spring bath. The spring water was so hot that I cried out, "Oh, it's too hot for me!" However, I felt very comfortable and enjoyed it very much after I got used to the hot water.

On one occasion, when my dad asked the driver in the car about the place where we were heading for, the driver took out a map and spent about ten minutes to show him. All this while, the driver's family members were waiting patiently with no signs of annoyance. This little but poignant act of courtesy showed us the hospitable nature of the Japanese.

In my memorable and enjoyable journey to Hokkaido, I could taste a variety of delicious Japanese dishes. I could see many interesting and special things too. Besides, I felt the warmth and hospitality of the people in Hokkaido. I hope to visit this lovely place again!

A Letter to Parents

Karson Wai 2C 

Dear Mum and Dad,

Once upon a time, a seed was lying alone in a silent and dark black hole. It slept soundly under the starry night and sprouted. Ten months later, there was a big bang! This little sprout woke up and cried loudly. When a pair of warm hands hugged it with love, it smiled softly.

Seven years later, this little sprout has become a healthy, energetic, curious but a little bit naughty seedling. There are two big trees which always love and take care of this seedling. It wonders, "what will I be in the future? Will I be tall? Will I be smart?"

I know the answer. I will become a big caring boy. When I grow up, this big tree will take care of you and spread the love to other people!

Love,
Karson



I Have a Magic Finger but...

Matthias Lau 3B 

I have a magic finger but it is not for punishment, it is for encouragement. I didn't know that when I got this magical power.

One day, when I was practising the xylophone, I felt tired and lost my temper. Mom smiled at me and gave me a thumbs up. Magic happened and I felt fully-charged.

Out of curiosity, I wanted to find out how powerful my thumb was. Once I saw a little child crying on the street. My thumb started to light up and then I felt a little bit itchy. When I gave the little child a thumbs up with a "Ding" sound, the child became happy and soon smiled.

The magic finger not only works for children, but also works for the elderly. Last time when I saw my grandmother, she said sadly, "I'm too old to play with you now..." That night, she cooked many delicious dishes for the family. Everyone praised her. I gave her a thumbs up with a "Ding" sound at the moment. She grinned proudly.

Tell you a secret, the miracle power of "magic finger" happens every second all over the world. You can try it yourself next time. Give people a thumbs up, show appreciation for them. The world around you will become wonderful.

The Fantastic Street

Ambrose Wong 5D



Perfect Storm

Arthur Chan 6E



Down the steep, slippery and snowy mountain,
There lies a vaporous and beautiful fountain.
Fish swimming fast, big or small,
Attracting visitors, short or tall.

Opposite the fountain is the hustle and bustle of the city,
Chemists, groceries, boutiques and toy shops.
Workers shuttling therein as busily as bees,
Customers bargaining and shopping as greedily as hogs.

Sniff! What's the fragrance?
Is it lily from the florist?
No, it should be the cookies from the bakery.
Oh! It's spaghetti from the eatery!

Close your eyes and have a sip of tea,
Listen to the laughing and screaming sounds.
Pirate ship, roller coaster and merry-go-round,
Where people having fun can be found.

'Dong', 'Dong', 'Dong', chimes from the clock tower,
Loud like thunder,
A good meeting place and a reminder,
Standing by us whatever the weather.

Sun is leaving, moon is coming,
At the end of the street stands the Ferris Wheel,
As round as a barrel,
Rotating and carrying people to 'tomorrow'.

Last Friday morning, I woke up to an overcast sky. Looking at the dark, smoky clouds which hung low, I decided to leave home early in order not to be late for school.

It started drizzling when I reached the bus-stop. Without any warning, there was a blinding flash of lightning, followed by a loud clap of thunder. Fortunately, a bus came within a few minutes. Although it was more crowded than usual, I squeezed my way in. The bus was crawling along at a snail's pace because of the heavy traffic congestion. The torrential rain rattled against the window panes of the bus like machine-gun fire. I thought we would be stuck inside the bus for a while.

Feeling bored, I tried to observe what the other passengers were doing. The girl sitting next to me had her nose in a novel while the old man behind me was snoring soundly. There were a few passengers who were getting a little agitated because they were obviously going to be late for work. I turned to look towards the window for a breath of fresh air. On the streets, flustered parents were hurrying their children along for fear that they would catch a cold in the rain. However, not everyone was unhappy. A few mischievous kids were splashing their way through the wet puddles gleefully, while their mothers admonished them.

Finally, after what seemed like eternity, the view of my school came into sight. Miraculously, the rain had stopped. I carefully alighted from the bus and walked towards my school. The clouds had drifted away, revealing a faint rainbow in the sky. As happy as a lark, I walked through the school gate and looked forward to an exhilarating day at school.



Photos on these pages:
P.6 students using iPads for
various learning activities
during English lessons



The Age of One-to-One Tablet Scheme Begins



Many thanks to Principal Chan's suggestion and vision, with our IT group and PTA's support, the One-to-One Tablet Scheme for P.6 has been unfolded since Apr 2021. Each P.6 boy is now provided with an iPad for all lessons every day!

Mr Philip Tse

Providing each P.6 student with an iPad has, without a doubt, greatly enhanced their motivation, participation and effectiveness in English lessons. As a teacher, I enjoyed the convenience of adding an extra level of interactivity to my lessons, especially in this era of keeping our social distance in the classroom. Figuring out how to make better use of the different teaching tools is a challenge, but the time spent on doing so is well worth it, as I was able to see marked improvement in the quality of students' work when compared to those from last year on the same topic. Based on these encouraging early results, I am really looking forward to how much our students can further benefit from this scheme next year!

Mr Richard Woods

Preparing Kahoot and Nearpod lessons has been most rewarding. It has heightened my appreciation for the role of I.T. (iPad) in learning. Students are engaged while carrying out the activities and certain applications enable the teacher to see areas of strength and weakness of individuals and the collective group in real-time.

Mr Sampras Lee

Overall, the introduction of iPads has brought about plenty of benefits to the teaching and learning of P.6 English lessons. The use of interactive platforms such as Nearpod and Kahoot allows the teacher to elicit and assess the responses of more than one student at a time – an important advantage that ensures maximum student engagement and renders it much easier to gauge how much individual students have grasped a particular language item. Students are also visibly more motivated when iPads are utilized, as their work – if it's of a good enough standard – may be shown to the entire class over the TV screen. As we continue to fine-tune and figure out the most effective way to incorporate technology in our lessons, this has undoubtedly been a positive step forward.



Junior boys playing drama guessing game "What's That?"



Mask drawing in action



P.6 improvised drama contest

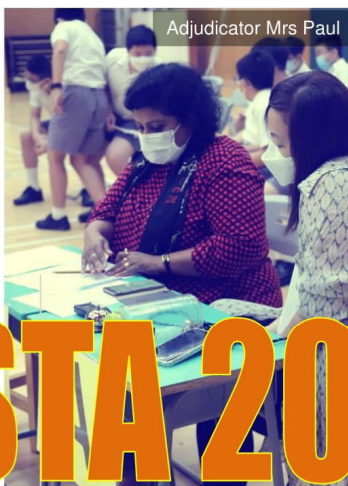


A mask design based on his favourite novel



DRAMA FIESTA 2021

Photos on these pages:
Snapshots of Drama Fiesta 2021



Adjudicator Mrs Paul



Pre-recorded online drama show



Having fun with their "new" masks

21 June

My 2021



Su Yue Sheng (Aden) 6E

I was trapped in a tiny room, bundled up against the corner like a prisoner. "Too dangerous!" they said, "It's too dangerous to leave!" I had already grown tired of pacing the room. I had tossed aside the various toys in the room, having grown bored of them already. Good thing it had all been fake, just a nightmare. However, this was exactly how I felt in 2020.

Before the pandemic, my family was just a typical city family. The children were just as busy as the adults with homework and extracurricular activities and what not. We had a very good adult-child relationship. We didn't involve each other in our lives unless it was necessary. Afterwards however, the children's schools were suspended. We were forced to stay under the same roof 24/7. For the first time in forever... my sisters and I had to learn to live together peacefully. We did chores together, we watched movies together, and when one of us got upset, the whole house got affected.

Until the pandemic, I didn't realize that the school rules could not be applied to family. At school, the teachers told me that I only needed to do my best, and respect others. The focus was on me. Meanwhile, if I had already done my best, I could help others. The teachers had given me a clear place and specific instructions. It helped me survive at school. The balance was kept in our house as well. However, at home things were very different. The rules change every day. I had to adapt and change. At first, it seemed freer until my mother broke down. She just couldn't handle all three of us (the children). My sisters and I figured out that it's easier for three children to take care of one mother. We discussed and divided the chores Mother had originally done between us. Once we finished our respective lessons, studies and chores, we would help our younger sister. After months of trying and adjustment, my family seemed more at peace.

Well, at least my family is back on track with life I suppose. Now that we've achieved karmic balance once more, I can once again think about myself. Looking back, I really can't say that 2020 was a bad one. In fact, it was more like a journey, a phase, to help me learn. Still, I'd like to take back control in 2021. My ultimate goal? To fight back to school. Why do I want to go back to go to school? I can study and learn all well and enough at home, but the real reason is that I miss my friends! Five months away from graduation, I want to see them before I leave for secondary school. I don't want my graduation to slip away silently. Even if the pandemic goes on, I still want to find a way to keep in touch with all my beloved friends.

Marcus Tsang 6D

A year has passed. Seconds have flown away like droplets of water, merging into minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, eventually, as if in the blink of an eye, a year has passed. Yet, every droplet of water is filled with memories, feelings and choices. Each droplet is just as important as the year.

2021 was expected to be full of uncertainties when it started, as COVID-19 still hung around, and vaccines' effects were not confirmed. Some experts said it would be even worse because the virus kept on mutating which rendered the vaccines useless. I tried to stay positive despite all these pessimistic predictions. Even if the situations don't change, we have to change ourselves. An American proverb says "It's not the gale but the set of the sail that determines the way you go." Even if you encounter a storm, there are only two things to overcome: determination and a will to endure the hurdles to achieve success. With these, you can steer your ship onwards, and to the land of success.

Fortunately, 2021 has been a wonderful year. The vaccines have eradicated the pandemic. The masks are gone, and the smiles are back. I can now breathe fresh air which is fantastic. After an arduous year-long journey, it has finally ended, what a great relief! I could attend face-to-face classes in school again after a long period of school suspension. I could meet with my fellow teachers and classmates again physically in person, not virtual images on the screen.

It has also been a hard year, because of the examinations for the secondary school. It feels like a monumental task to complete, and the pressure is intense. I sometimes feel frustrated. However, I finally felt determined to finish my studies, and by that time, it felt not as hard. No pain and no gain. I am now a student of the Ying Wa College together with many old classmates. What an achievement!

Sometimes, you may think there is a hurdle in front of you, yet, as the challenge approaches, the cosmic dice may just roll in your favour. Nevertheless, a coin has two sides. There is always a chance where a seemingly smooth sea suddenly stirs up a storm. You just never know.

13th January was a freezing day, a day which I will never forget. Without any forewarning, grandpa walked away from us forever.

On that day, the home telephone strangely rang at 5:30 a.m. in the early morning when everyone was fast asleep. Dad got a piece of bad news. Grandpa was sent to the hospital by the ambulance



From left: Marcus, Dr Lee, Aden

urgently.

Mum was in shock and cried bitterly, and I felt awful as well. It felt as if a sense of fear, mixed with pain, but with hollow helplessness. There was nothing I could do except hugging her and prayed that he could recover. There were multiple calls throughout the day; I felt a surge of fear piercing through my body each time when the phone rang.

A hospital call came in the evening saying that grandpa was in a critical condition and would not see the light of day again. Mum wept sorrowfully and rushed to the hospital to say goodbye to him immediately. My heart was broken, and tears kept rolling down my face. In the presence of mum, grandma and mum's brother, grandpa exhaled his last breath and passed away peacefully.

It was really sad. I still couldn't believe that he was gone. When I closed my eyes, the moments of grandpa with me popped up in my mind. The last time when grandpa still didn't have dementia was when I just graduated from kindergarten. I still have a faint memory of him holding me in his hands, smiling and talking to me. I still remembered the moments he played with me in the playground and celebrated my birthdays together. When I told him I was admitted to Ying Wa Primary School, he was ecstatic and hugged me. It's a pity that he could not share the joy of my primary school graduation, but that's life. Although he later couldn't recognise me, he always smiled at me whenever I met him. Even though I cannot see him again, all these memories will be with me forever.

Yet, no matter how sad this was, since death was inevitable, there was nothing I could do but move on. Time marches forward inexorably, and I cannot forever dwell in the past. This incident made me understand the most profound lesson: life is fragile and unpredictable.

There is a famous quotation from a film, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get" (Forrest Gump). This sentence concludes what I have learnt in 2021. Every droplet of memories is just as important as the year. I am sure there are droplets I will never forget in 2021, and those droplets will journey with me throughout my life. Pains make you stronger, and tears make you braver. I will seize every moment, cherish my friends and family members and open a new chapter in 2022.

Dr H C Lee

December 2020. These days I have been notorious for having developed a habit of altering photographs using a face-changing app. It is particularly hilarious seeing someone become very young, very old, or in either case, very Caucasian. This evening, I dared to see myself as an eighty-something. I angled my face and took a selfie under the dim bathroom light as I sat on the toilet bowl. I pressed a button and welcomed my inevitable future self to emerge from the phone screen. And there he came – a frail, wrinkled man with untidy, unclean and untamed hair matching the uncomfortably loose skin scattered with cancer-like moles on his much pulled-down face – the only positive thing might be that he had a touch of exotic flavour. People say that each fold on your face represents a challenge you have overcome or an achievement accomplished. Yet, meeting him, I couldn't help but asked, *what have you done to deserve this drained and deflated face as if you had but a few hours left to live?* I should have smiled at least when I took that selfie.

I felt movements in my bowels, first time in the 30 minutes I spent with my frozen posture like "The Thinking Man" sculpture. And a tiny dry piece of evidence to prove that my digestive system was still functioning alright got pushed out for a silent dive. The old gentleman on the screen seemed to be smirking at my "achievement", as if telling me I would for sure suffer more in the bathroom when I reached his stage.

"So, my friend," I said, avoiding to admit that he would be a "future me", "how did you survive 2021?"

"The way you did in 2020," a deep voice answered back, seemingly coming from the creased face.

"Some advice would be cool, man!" I seized the chance to ask an important question. And there, he started to talk.

"I wouldn't speak much," he started, sneered. "Not to spoil the show!"

"Hints will do! Come on."

"Well, boy, start with a familiar word, 'Mask!'" he said. "The first item on your list of 'equipment' to conquer your year of 2021."

How unimaginative it was to tell me that masks

My 2021 (continued)



were needed for the new year when we all spent 2020 with a mask on most of the time? But yes, I did expect that this little piece of “clothing” would become a norm and we would not be able to live without it.

After some cleaning up, I walked out of the bathroom and passed the cold and bare corridor to reach my doll-occupied couch. Behind the head of a huge Mickey Mouse, three blue hangers stuck out like weapons for the soft-toy boss among my wife’s collection. But what disgusted me was the pink surgical face mask dangling from the hook of one hanger like a miserable flag – and yes, I did it. As I disposed of it, I realized it was not only a mask. It was a responsibility, a promise to protect one another, a sense of awareness being a citizen, being a husband, being a teacher and so on. Who hadn’t learnt about the correct way to handle a mask these days? Who hadn’t been disgusted by people throwing masks carelessly on the streets or pulling them down for smoking? Now looking ahead for the new year, I could see that this item and what it represented would carry on with its importance for me, as well as everybody.

No sooner had I placed my phone on the coffee table than my unexpected companion spoke again. “The next two essential items for you, boy, are ‘arts’ and ‘speech,’” he said. His voice came within me, so there was no need for me to adjust the volume, if I could at all.

“Arts and speech?” I asked, interested. “You mean ‘language arts?’”

There was no answer. But I was really glad knowing that these two hobbies of mine would continue to make an impact on me next year, whether by being made use of more, or by being further developed as part of my skill set. Reflecting on my past effort, I spent a huge amount of time equipping myself in visual arts through editing magazines for my serving school and for myself. As for speech, am I allowed to say I have been so proud of witnessing the improvements of my students in spoken English under my public speaking, verse speaking and drama trainings? I would love to see myself continuing to achieve more in these areas. With respect to language arts, I have been waiting for the outcomes of

a prestigious local speech and drama contest in which I entered some twenty students. I told myself that if I were to be very contented with the results, I would use my programme data to write an academic essay which might help me earn a Fellowship in Speech and Drama in a university in London.

“Did you get your Fellowship? You know what I’m saying,” I spoke to the photo, realizing that this question was too important to miss.

“As I said,” the old man replied, his dehydrated lips showing some suppressed movements, “I would not spoil the show.”

“Okay, so?”

“The next item starts with a ‘T,’” he hinted without further elaborations, not even any inviting, mischievous or humorous facial expression was noticeable.

“Teaching?” I immediately responded with the first word in my head. “I guess I would continue to serve where I’m serving.

“Technology it is,” the answer came. I felt like speaking to Master Yoda.

“Oh, right!” I exclaimed with agreement. Yes, I did expect my e-skills to grow as all of my fellow teachers had become an essential part of the online teaching and learning scheme. With the global pandemic continuing to threaten us, there is no other hope to conduct lessons for children without the help of technology. Having said that, the pain of movie editing, accuracy assuring and attention seeking added so much burden to teachers on top of the inevitable disaster of having to make your design open to all, particularly to the critical and meticulous eyes of the panelists, and the seniors. With a particular colleague in my mind, I almost asked the one in the photograph the way she departed. Nonetheless, my instinct told me that such a question was highly irrelevant, if it was decent enough to be asked at all. I was then brought to the image of my fading grandma during her last few days. The liquid passing the catheter shifted from light amber to reddish orange with blood residues to completely dry moments before she left. Machines kept her verbal enough to utter a few words of blessing to me and my wife the final time we both met her. I believed whatever a dying person said – they were wired to the future somehow.

“Technology, yes, I will surely work with that,” I asserted overtly respectfully, “as I’ve been doing so very happily.”

“Good, very good,” commented the weathered gentleman. “Keep up your ‘enthusiasm’, which is item number five.”

Enthusiasm. This is too right. I still remembered in January this year I was asked about the quality a new teacher should have stepping into the real field of education. That was something like a university-school partnership symposium at the University of Hong Kong. I had the chance to be one of the panel discussants and we talked about all sorts of things. “Enthusiasm” was what I said to the question. In fact, not only young teachers, experienced ones also need that. Perhaps particularly the experienced practitioners need enthusiasm in their profession because their fire is more prone to extinguishment.

Looking out of the dark window glass, my filtered reflection, accidentally ornamented with the blinking Christmas lights from the distance, showed me I wasn’t the same as sixteen years ago when I first met my students in this school. I had nothing but enthusiasm then. Much weakened now with age and changes of colleagues over the years. Nonetheless, my fire was fortified with my success in video-making. I sometimes felt myself being more useful on screen than being physically present. What an irony. Does it still count as enthusiasm?

I walked to the bookshelf. I carelessly pulled out my copy of Fred Uhlman’s “Reunion”, still moved by what happened in Karl Alexander Gymnasium, and haunted by Hans’s discovery of his former best friend’s poignant denouement when Han thought he could really forget him. I wondered when, if ever, I would have the chance to reunite with all those “people” of mine who were now being distanced from me, personally, spiritually, and emotionally.

“How about ‘Reunion?’” I turned to my phone and asked. “The final item I should have for 2021.”

There was a complete silence. The phone went dim, and it went off for power-saving.

Obviously, “Reunion” wasn’t something I needed to have to fight for this new year; it would be a reward I might deserve should I prove to be worthy of it. I switched my phone back on. My “future” look

was the same uninviting that I couldn’t really look at its details. How would I feel the day when someone told me they couldn’t bear looking at me? I undid the effect and left the app as if I hadn’t started it in the first place.

“Mask”, “Arts”, “Speech”, “Technology”, “Enthusiasm” and “Reunion”. They came as “MASTER” acrostically (though “STREAM” could have been another good one!). I surely knew it had to be me who would shape the year into whatever it would be for me, as I did for 2020. I would be the “Master” of my year and I would make the best use of my skills and spirits to make time contributive to me, and vice versa. But whether or not the future was fixed still puzzled me fundamentally.

I returned back to the washroom. The mirrored me showed the irritating stubble in contrast with my almost hairless torso. In my early teens, I used to stare at my mirrored self, thinking about how I might age, and how that aged me would advise me. Now, looking at the dark bags under by weary eyes, I had no interest hearing voices.

Things do take time to reveal their meanings. I finished Uhlman’s masterpiece without realizing “gymnasium” meant a kind of “secondary school”, not until I had a professional trip to Frankfurt years later. And in this sense, it would be years later, or decades, that I would realize the significance, or trivialness, of any of my thoughts this evening over a single silent silly selfie. What the future held was pretty unknown to me; all I knew was I trusted myself for it, rather than a free app which gave everybody a western look regardless of their preference.

Drama Goes On!



Although nothing can equal the experience of a staged performance with the audience present to appreciate the performers' art, this last year has been quite an extra-ordinary one, in terms of staging any drama performance, live. We at Ying Wa were also no exception. Faced with the norms of social distancing combined with other rules while on the school premises, owing to the pandemic, we, the Drama teachers and the Drama students faced quite a few difficulties and challenges while preparing for the Hong Kong School Drama Festival, this year.




First and foremost, since no extra- curricular activities are being allowed currently on the school premises, we had little choice but to opt for online training which in itself was a big hurdle to overcome. Drama, as we all know, primarily comprises of the key components of physical and social interaction. However, this year, unfortunately we had to forgo that. Practicing for hours in the evening, cooped up in our homes, sitting in front of the computer screen was not an easy task and required

both patience and sincerity. Kudos to all our student performers and our wonderful drama team for accomplishing the same. Of course, we encountered problems, technical glitches and other issues along the way, but we overcame them all and went to put up the show.

The performance itself was unique because again for the first time it was being held online. This was a new and unknown format for every one of us and hence we were all pretty apprehensive, at first. The characters were all far apart from one another (social distancing norms) yet they were all performing the same play, just as any live performance albeit via zoom for the adjudicators, only. Tension was quite apparent and we all kept our fingers crossed for the show to be as flawless as possible. Our only means of communication with each other were our mobile phones. Needless to say, we were elated that the performance was seamless and so was the interaction with the adjudicators thereafter – "all's well that ends well".

It gives me great pleasure to share the fabulous news that YWPS received awards in 3 different categories this year from HKSDF – Award for Outstanding Performance, Award for Outstanding Audio-Visual Effects and Award for Outstanding Cooperation. Given the unprecedented and daunting circumstances, this wasn't an ordinary feat. My sincerest gratitude to all my team members who took the challenge head-on and proved once again, no matter what, with determination and effort we can succeed. Congratulations Drama Team!

Mrs Abanty Paul

-  **Award for Outstanding Audio-Visual Effects**
-  **Award for Outstanding Cooperation**
-  **Award for Outstanding Performer**
(Keith Cheung 4A, Angus Cheng 4B, Anson Lo 5A, Nicholas Tang 6C)



As a member of the Drama Team for 4 years, I am certain to say that this is a wonderful experience to be here. Being in the Team made me confident in acting in a way that I have never done, and is definitely one of the best memories in my Primary School life.

This year (2021), due to the pandemic, our drama practices were forced to go online. However, that has not hampered our spirit in Drama and we would try our best to improve in every practice. Our teachers have also given the greatest support to let us enjoy acting. This has surely been a golden opportunity to train our resilience in difficult situations like this.

Drama is fascinating when you get to try different things with different characters. Drama is astonishing, when you get to experience something which turns out to be more fun than you had expected. Drama is awesome, when you get to collaborate with an amazing group of friends.

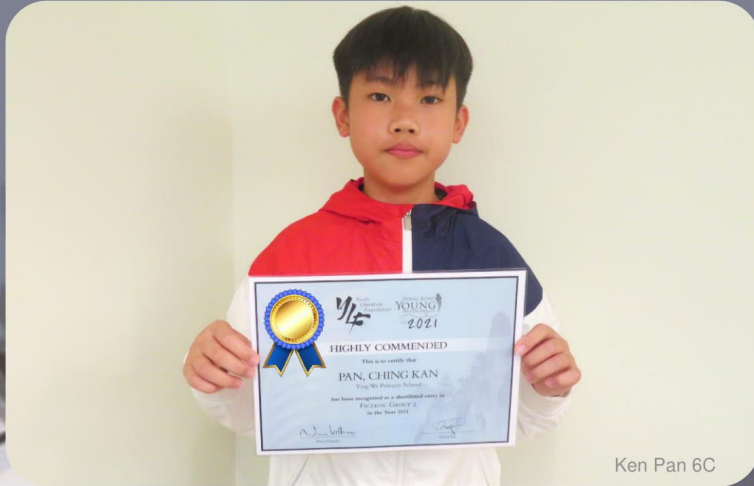
Nicholas Tang 6C



Photos in these pages:

Drama Team rehearsing/performing the play "Rumpelstiltskin – Private Eye"

Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2021



Ken Pan 6C

Congratulations to Ken Pan (6C) on his “Highly Commended” Award at the Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2021 under the theme “Tales from China’s Magical Mountains”. His amazing entry “The Phoenix” is shortlisted and published in the competition’s annual anthology. Let’s take a look at the beauty of his opening paragraph:

The last silver of golden light faded under the misty mountains of Huangshan. Silvery stars began to appear as the sky began to darken. Its colour changing from a bluish-grey to pitch black. The local farmers had returned home for their dinner, so no one witnessed the peculiar event occurring in the air — stars began to cluster together as if they were pulled in by some unknown force, merging and creating an orb of pure light so bright it resembled the moon. Heavy with stardust, it started descending gracefully down onto the ground, where it was picked up by a gust of wind and landed right on a wooden doorstep of a certain house in the ancient village of Huangshan.

Ken’s tips on how to be a good writer:

1. When writing, it is important to determine to use which of two methods – Mapping out everything in your story (plot, characters, setting etc.), or just sit down, be spontaneous and write whatever comes to mind, starting with the slightest germ of an idea. I usually do the latter.
2. While writing, you might need some help expressing/beautifying the ideas/descriptions you have in mind. Technology is already getting more and more advanced as we speak, so why not use it to our advantage? I’m sure everyone reading this has to have access to some sort of smart device...right? Use Google to look up facts to make your story/essay more convincing and authentic, and Thesaurus for synonyms to brighten up your sentences.
3. When you’re finished with your story, scan through it for potential errors, grammatical mistakes, or sentences you aren’t pleased with. Come up with a second draft. After that, make a third. Continue until your story is of near-perfection. As my teacher Dr. Lee always says, “Never be pleased with your first draft.”

21st Century Cup National English Speaking Competition



Aden Su 6E



Aldon So 3E

Congratulations to Su Yue Sheng (Aden) 6E and So Yu Hang (Aldon) 3E for winning Champion and 1st Runner Up in their respective Public Speaking categories at the “21st Century Cup” Hong Kong Region Final.

This year, I had a lot of opportunities to prove myself and my English skills: the Speech Festival, the Speech Gala... but the one that stood out to me the most was the 21st Century Cup.

I entered the 21st Century Cup with a speech, but at first I wasn’t sure who to write about, as the topic was “The bravest person in my eye”. I toyed with the idea of picking my mother, but I wasn’t too good at being emotional, well, except anger. That’s always easy to summon. So, my family was out.

Next, I wanted to decide which famous character to write about. I thought I should write about a Chinese hero, but I never really paid attention to those myths. Then, a real mythological hero would seem comical and silly. Finally, I decided to pick Harriet Tubman as that person.

Then, with a fire in my heart, I set off on a very painful round of video shooting. Miraculously, I actually made it to the Hong Kong Regional Final. I was most scared of the Q and A portion of the contest, because I didn’t know what to expect.

One of the two questions they asked was “What is the best way Harriet Tubman was remembered?” This made me nervous as I hadn’t really looked into other pieces of information other than what I needed for my script. However, God was watching over me that day and I suddenly remembered that there was a national park named after Tubman, and it saved me as I got into the National Finals!

This was an amazing and interesting experience and I have to thank Dr Lee for giving me this opportunity to prove myself. I hope I can do my best in the National Finals against all of China and I promise to make Ying Wa proud. Well, wish me luck!

Aden Su 6E

Scan the QR codes to take a look at Aden’s (left) and Aldon’s recorded speeches for the first round.



5th LCM Speech Festival



So Yu Hang 3E



Jayden Tang 6D

Congratulations to Jayden Tang 6D and Aldon So 3E for being awarded Champion and First Runner-up respectively at the 5th LCM Speech Festival!

Aldon was awarded the 1st Runner-up with his Read Aloud performance. The adjudicator appreciated his articulation, pronunciation, dramatic voice effect and use of intonation.

Jayden took part in the Public Speaking event and won his first Champion in Speech and Drama. The judge described him as a confident and cogent speaker. Jayden was also praised for his use of idiom, grammatical and pronunciation accuracy, range of vocabulary and his note-free style.

Thank you to my teacher for inviting me in this wonderful public speaking experience. I learnt a lot during the training process such as how efforts come to success as well as emotions are the main things in speeches. I am also grateful and elated for my first champion in Speech and Drama!

Jayden Tang 6D

I would like to thank my teacher for giving me this opportunity and for teaching me. I feel very lucky to have him teach me and am already very happy. The fact that I still get to perform live on stage is super exciting. Lastly, I would like to thank my family for supporting me and praying for me behind the scenes.

Aldon So 3E

“Let students talk about Education” International Conference 2021



Scan the QR code for the video!

Congratulations to Paco Wong 6B and Jayden Tang 6D for their video “Learning English Under the Pandemic” receiving a **First Runner-up** at the “Let students talk about Education” International Conference 2021 (organized by Man Kwan Pak Kau College). We joined the “Learning Demonstration” section of the conference, which was also a contest between all the presenters from different schools.

We were awarded among the 15 participating teams covering a range of topics including STEM, Language and Social Science.

YWPS Debate Team Reaches the Final



Good news from our Debate Team! We have reached the Finals of the Hong Kong Secondary School Debating Competition to be held in early July. We will face Pun U Association Wah Yan Primary School in the Final with the topic concerning elderly living in retirement homes.

Debate teacher Mr Ching has been training our P.6 debaters through a video conferencing platform under the pandemic restrictions. We wish our boys a very fantastic competition experience! Best of luck!



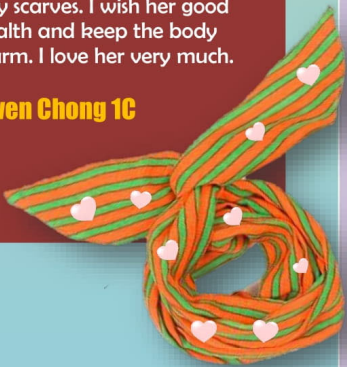
Our P.6 Debate Team with Mr Ching

A Christmas Gift to Grandmother

It is a special Christmas this year. We have to stay at home to stay healthy. Therefore, I want to give a Christmas gift to my grandma. It is a scarf made of cashmere. It is soft and comfortable. It is orange with green stripes and some pink hearts on it.

I want to give this scarf to her because she does not have any scarves. I wish her good health and keep the body warm. I love her very much.

Owen Chong 1C



Thank You, My Dearest Mummy

Nathan Miu 2D

I want to thank you as I love you so much. I am very grateful to have you in my life.

Thank you for being there always. You wake up at 5 am every Monday to Friday, to prepare a yummy breakfast and healthy snacks for me. I appreciate how you always work so hard to show your love and care for me and daddy. After sending me to school, you have lots of work such as cleaning, tidying up and cooking.

Thank you for helping me borrow books from the library and buying all my favourite books for me from the book shop.

You always make me feel special and encouraged all along the way. I want to do something for you in return. I want to study hard and behave well.

Thank you for everything. You are the most wonderful mummy in the whole universe!

A Good Deed A Day

Marvel Mau 3D

The day before yesterday, my mum had a fever and she was very annoyed.

I asked her, "Are you feeling better now?" the only answer from her was a little 'no' and she shook her head.

I was so scared that my mum had got Covid-19, but she always washes her hands and keeps hygienic, so I think she didn't get it. I told her to drink more water and eat the pills from the doctor's instructions. I suggested her to take a warm bath and sleep well. All of a sudden, a lightbulb popped in my head and went 'ding' and the idea in my brain was to make a warm honey water for her to make her feel better.

Now she finally says, "Now I am feeling a teeny-weeny little bit better." That's what I want my mum to say after drinking honey water.

At night, I asked her, "Do you need an ice-bag?"

She said, "No, thanks. We don't have any ice."

Yesterday morning, she was very grateful to me because I helped her so much. I was still worrying about her fever.

I asked, "Do you still need to sleep for a while?"

She answered, "No, silly boy! My fever is totally gone; I woke up early to check my body temperature in the thermometer, and it was 36.5°C."

I was very glad and my only hope made her recover. Even though we are children, we are able to help adults. Therefore, don't hesitate to help each other especially in the time of pandemic.

The Way to a Heavenly Place

I want to go,
To go to a heavenly place.
This place is so,
So like an amazing maze.

I walk on a path with beautiful flowers,
And many greenery plants.
Suddenly comes a rain shower,
The forest has a real blast!

As I stroll along the picturesque path,
I glance, squirrels gather nuts.
Baby elephants taking bath,
Fluffy bunnies hopping in their hut.

Golden rays of sunshine on my cheeks,
Amidst the fresh soft breeze.
My way is like going up the peak,
Having some peace at heaven's ease.

Raphael Wong 4B



Worth Watching Again and Again...



The “Ying Wa 202” birthday video earned the English Department the second Popularity Prize last November. Thanks to all of you who enjoyed watching this video! Check it out again here:



The English Department’s wrap-up video features the boys’ reflections on their favourite English learning moments this year. Check it out here:



englishywps.com

Produced by the English Department. Edited and designed by Dr H C Lee.

