



# The English Navigator



## EDITORIAL

English is like dancing...it is playful, fun and entertaining yet requires talent, skills and lots of dedication. It is a highly useful tool to enrich our lives. It can also help build our confidence and take us places. For example, students from Henrietta use it as a platform to participate in numerous English activities, such as the Inter-school Speech Festival and various kinds of pedagogical fun activities held in the English Corner from time to time.

The versatility of the beautiful language helps us appreciate all the good things around us. No doubt, English is fun. Have a great time reading this edition.



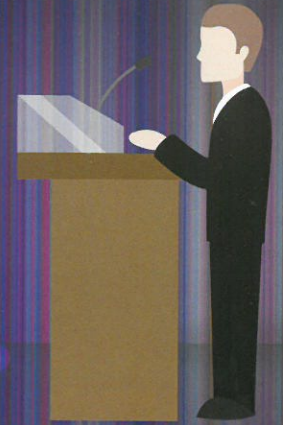
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# 69<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival



With the help of our English consultant, Mr. Simon Tham, our school has trained both Form One and Form Two students for the 69th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. Mr. Tham is very experienced in training students for choral

speaking. He has been the adjudicator in the speech festival for so many years.

In the English lessons, Mr. Tham, together with the English teachers, taught students how to understand and appreciate the poems. First of all, students needed to know what the poems were about. Then, they needed to use their voices and actions in order to present the poems vividly. Of course, pronunciation and unity were of utmost importance. Students spent lots of effort and time in their practice. Luckily, the Form Two students got very satisfactory results and the Form One students attained third place in the competition.



*"In order to get myself well-prepared, it is of the utmost importance to have a thorough understanding of the Bible verses in order not to distort the original meaning during my presentation. I was freaked out on the day of the competition. However, with my classmates' support, I was encouraged. 'No matter what the result will be, I believe my performance can glorify God!' With this conviction, I was no longer nervous."*

**5D Joanna Li got the second place in Bible Speaking Competition**



Learning a foreign language is never easy in Hong Kong, where the majority of the locals are using Cantonese for daily communications. Hong Kong students can practise writing, reading and listening by themselves but to enhance their speaking. It is a good idea if they join the English Club so that they can find a partner to practice with. They can write beautiful sentences and memorize thousands of words. To improve their spoken English, learners should expose

themselves to authentic contexts. Of course, the best way to master a foreign language is to talk with a native speaker. Seeing the needs of giving our students more chances to learn English well, our school has established the English Speaking Club for more than a decade. An English teacher and a native English teacher are responsible for this extra-curricular activity. This year, it is our pleasure to have an energetic yet elegant lady to join our club. Welcome Ms. Neelam Gupta. Ms. Gupta is an experienced native English teacher. She has been teaching in Hong Kong for a long time.

Our club meetings are usually held on a Wednesday afternoon. Most of our club members are from Form one to Form three. These lovely young English learners can always feel the fun and enjoy a relaxing Wednesday afternoon with the teachers. They always show enthusiasm when participating in games or learning activities. The games are designed to provide a natural environment for them to use spoken English.



“ Each time, we have many funny games and participants can win some small prizes if they complete the tasks successfully. To match with some special days or festivals, we have designed some games and activities. Christmas Bingo has become one of their favourite games now. ”

Bingo



turkey. 	cracker. 	Christmas tree. 	snowman. 	Santa Claus. 
gifts. 	singing carols. 	stocking. 	candy cane. 	Christmas cake. 
reindeer. 	ginger bread. 	December 25 <sup>th</sup> . 	wreath. 	cookies. 
Rudolph. 	elf. 	Holly. 	greetings. 	candy. 

Join us and have fun!



# Introduction to our new NET

An interview was conducted by Kong Tsz Ching, Zandra (F.5D) to introduce our new NET to school.



**Zandra:** Ms. Nina where do you come from?

**Ms. Nina:** I come from the rolling green pastures of New Zealand. I've been very lucky to have been brought up in two great cultures - Indian and New Zealand. Being dream destinations, they should be on the 'bucket list' of people who are struck by wanderlust. I liked living in Auckland since it is multicultural in the true sense with lots of opportunities.

**Zandra:** When did you come to Hong Kong?

**Ms. Nina:** I moved to Hong Kong twelve years ago and now I call it my second home.

**Zandra:** What are your hobbies?

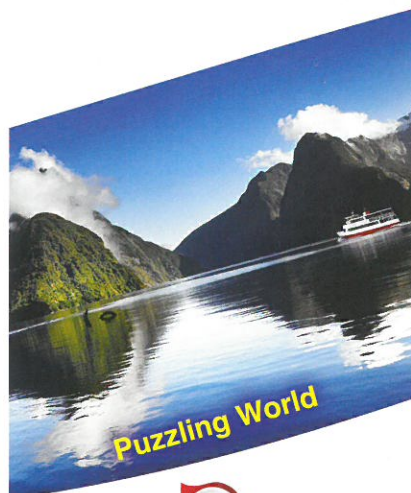
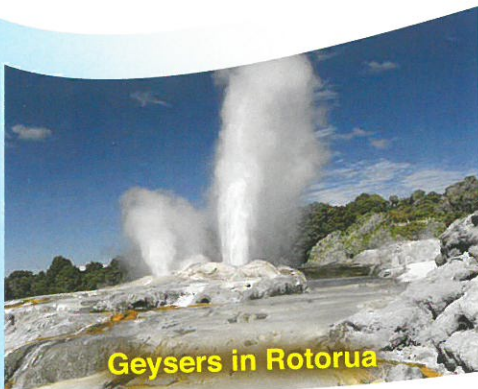
**Ms. Nina:** My hobbies are traveling, hiking and attending soirees. That gives me ample opportunity to mingle with new people and do some charity work. When I'm free, I like to socialise with family and friends. It's like a stress-buster for me. I hope I will be able to enrich the lives of students in my capacity as a NET.

**Zandra:** As you mentioned, New Zealand should be on the 'bucket list' of people who like travelling. Can you suggest some of the best places to visit there?

**Ms. Nina:** Well, New Zealand has abundant natural beauty. However, a few must-visit places are Milford Sound and Puzzling World near Queenstown. The adrenaline-filled Jet Boat adventure should not be missed either. Of course, the visit to New Zealand is incomplete without getting a feel of the Maori cultural experience in Auckland and the hot springs & geysers in Rotorua.

**Zandra:** Thank you for the information. It was a pleasure interviewing you, Ms. Nina!

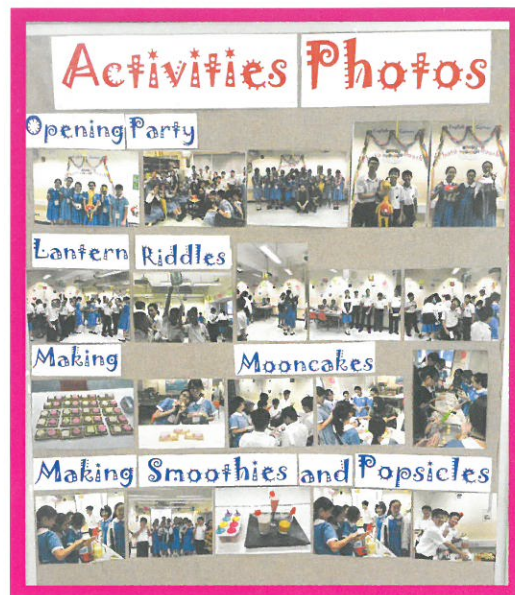
**Ms. Nina:** You're welcome.



## By Helen Leung 6C

Being a student in this school is a lucky and enjoyable experience. We are offered a lot of opportunities to learn English outside our classroom. Every year, the English Department will hold English Speaking Day to encourage students to speak English with their schoolmates and teachers. Amazing prizes are given to attract students to join. The atmosphere on that day is comparable to a carnival. When I was in Form 3, students were arranged to watch a show at the English Assembly, in which we were encouraged to learn English through listening to songs. I was very impressed because it was an innovative and interesting way to learn English. Besides the above two activities, I can go to English Corner all year round. I remember going there to play games, watch movies and speak with our NET.

All these activities help to balance the boring rote-learning mode in the classroom. Therefore, I am so lucky to study in a rich English learning environment.



## By Ken Lai 6C

Knowing that English plays an important role for secondary students to develop their future career and further their studies, our school has been putting in a lot of effort to provide a great English learning environment for us.

Back in the days when I was in Form 3, I got the opportunity to improve my English by being taught by a "Native English Teacher", who came from Australia. It was an unforgettable experience because I had never been taught by a foreigner before. At the beginning, all my classmates were worried and scared because we got no chance to speak Cantonese in the lessons. We also found it difficult to follow the instructions. However, as days passed, we could communicate fluently and clearly with each other and with our NET. From then onwards, speaking English is no longer a hard thing for me. Thus, having a NET is beneficial for our English learning.

As a Form 6 student who has got some experience in learning English, I would encourage our schoolgirls and boys to take a more active role and be brave when learning English.

# *Writing about English Learning Environment in HSS*



**By Suki Wong 6C**

In the previous years, our school has held lots of activities to let us learn English in a more interactive and interesting way. In our daily routine, we have English Announcement on every Wednesday and English morning reading weeks three times a year. On one special occasion, we were arranged to watch the musical called 'Les Miserable' in Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre. It was the most attractive

English activity that I had ever joined.

Students can gain a lot when joining these activities. Making English announcement by students is a great opportunity for students to learn speaking and listening skills. Take myself as an example, when I was in Form 1, it was difficult for me to listen to the English Announcement. But after a year, I worked hard and gave it a try. I then could follow the announcement easily. In the English reading weeks, even though the time was short and we couldn't finish a lot, we could learn more vocabulary and develop a reading habit in the long term.

In the future, I hope that our school can organize some joint school activities. For example, we can invite students from other schools to conduct a joint school group discussion activity.

I really appreciate what our school has done to create a good English learning environment and hope that our junior form students can do better and better.

# English Morning Assemblies

This year, Thanksgiving Day is on 23rd November. Our school has organized English morning assemblies for both junior and senior form students. The theme was thanksgiving. We chose this theme because we wanted our students to learn



how to appreciate those who looked after and cared about them. First of all, our NET, Ms Neelam Gupta, introduced the origin of Thanksgiving Day. Then, she taught students different ways to say "Thank you". Students were then distributed a "thankful heart" and they could make use of what they just learnt to show their gratitude to their friends or teachers. Students' thankful hearts were collected and stuck on the board.



Instead of having teachers being the speakers, some Form 4 students were trained to be in charge of a game session. It was their first attempt to be involved in such a large scale activity. To the surprise of all, they did a very good job and the students had great fun.





The last session was “Commonly Confused Expressions”. There are some expressions in Chinese which students do not know how to express in English and, therefore, they usually adopt the direct translation and this causes confusion and misunderstanding.

Some senior and junior form students were invited to make some video clips. In each clip, there was a scenario showing a common mistake made by students. Then, the teacher would ask the audience in the hall to see if they knew the correct way to say the expressions. After that, the teacher introduced different ways to express the meanings.



5D Domingo Leung

“ I thought it was quite an easy task to do the video recording so I didn't practise much. Nevertheless, I found that it was very hard for me to look at the camera while reciting my lines. I got a bit nervous. I learnt that being humble is the prerequisite of doing everything. Learning English is no different. With humility, surely you can sharpen your skills and do better. ”



6D Jason Wen

“ I think the English assembly was interesting and inspiring. The Commonly Confused Expressions was one of the best. I realized that some of the expressions I used every day were actually wrong. This is quite common among Chinese students. I hope all of my fellow schoolmates enjoyed the activities and learned how to speak proper English. ”

# Writing about English Corner Activity Thanksgiving Day Activity

By Emily Wong 6C

In this Thanksgiving Day activity, I wrote a few cards to the people to whom I would like to send my gratitude. They are my parents and teachers, who are all very important to me. This activity has inspired me to keep a thankful heart.

Being grateful and thankful to the people in your life is very meaningful thing. In my secondary school life, I appreciate and am lucky that I have an experienced teacher to be my class teacher. He is Mr. Fan. He is a wonderful and inspiring person. He not only teaches us the knowledge in the book, but also the basic principles and philosophies in life. His most enlightening sentence is, "People underestimate their capacity for change. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing." Some people are clever, others are not so gifted enough. But everyone has an equal chance to succeed. His teaching inspires me a lot. I am not a clever and outstanding student, but I know that I also have my chance to be successful.

Therefore, this Thanksgiving Day activity really gives us the best opportunity to say thank you to those around us.

By Tim Tsang 6C

That was an amazing day. I was happy to share my appreciation through writing the Thanksgiving Day cards. I joined the activity that day because I think it is meaningful. Every time you get helped, you have got somebody to say thank you to. Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada, celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. After joining the school activity this time, I have known more about the origin and history of Thanksgiving Day. From now on, I probably will celebrate this festival every year because I realize that I have lots of people to send my gratitude to.

Besides, it is interesting to find the similarities between Thanksgiving Day and Chinese New Year. Both festivals are the time for families to get together to celebrate with a big feast. On Thanksgiving Day, people eat turkey whereas people enjoy a good chicken during Chinese New Year. I hope that we always remember to be thankful to all the blessings on us.



# English Corner Activities 2017-2018

This year, the English Corner started with a bang with the 'Opening Party' amidst lots of fun and frolic. Many exciting activities were organised in the English Corner, in order to motivate students to learn English in a stimulating environment. These activities also conveyed the message that English is not confined to just books- it is far more enjoyable beyond the class, for sure!

The English Corner plan was thematic, meaning that every month the activities were based on a particular theme. Here is a snapshot of the various activities we had this year. Participants were motivated through lucky draw prizes, candies, chocolates and special gifts.



1. During the Mid-Autumn festival, students took part in a 'Lantern-riddle' game - a thought provoking activity. They tried hard finding answers to some interesting riddles related to the festival.



2. Thanksgiving Day was celebrated through 'A Thankful Heart' activity. Each participant wrote a thank you message to the person he/she felt grateful to.



3. Another activity to ring in Christmas was 'Christmas Bingo'. Besides enabling students to get an idea of Western culture and enjoy the festive spirit, it also helped students learn new words related to this beautiful festival.



A variety of other activities were also introduced, ranging from playing vocabulary games, board games, Happy Kitchen to movie appreciation. The activities were planned by Ms. Gupta and actively assisted by Mr. Yuen

and Ms. Chu. A team of dedicated English ambassadors promoted and conducted the English Corner activities enthusiastically.

The English Corner was decorated every month with a display of relevant vocabulary related to the theme of the month so that students could learn new words and use them in day-to-day life. To capture the interest of students, posters of idioms and common expressions were displayed along with the picture-vocabulary.

**Happy Kitchen:** Food is an important part of any celebration in all nations of the world, regardless of culture or religion. Different countries use food in different ways to help celebrate special occasions like Christmas, New Year, weddings and birthdays. Happy Kitchen was one of the most successful and popular activities providing students a hands-on approach to learning English while having loads of fun. For example, students made mooncakes during Mid-Autumn Festival and Healthy Smoothies & Popsicles during fall time.





Since Christmas is round the corner,  
let's try our hand at making

## "Gingerbread Men Cookies"



### Ingredients

- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup shortening, melted and cooled slightly
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Sift together the flour, baking powder, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, and cinnamon; set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together the shortening, molasses, brown sugar, water, egg, and vanilla until smooth. Gradually stir in the dry ingredients, until they are completely absorbed. Divide dough into 3 pieces, pat down to 1 1/2 inch thickness, wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 3 hours.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters. Place cookies 1 inch apart onto an ungreased cookie sheet.
4. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove from the baking sheet to cool on wire racks. When cool, the cookies can be frosted with the icing of your choice.




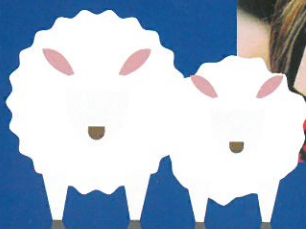
# Learning cultures from down under

With Hong Kong being a true 'melting pot' of different cultures, it is important that we expose students to a new culture from time to time. Not only will it provide them with an opportunity to enhance their own beliefs and values but also help them become multicultural in the true sense. So far they've been given a feel of New Zealand and Australian cultures.



## Time to brush up your general knowledge-

1. Which animal keeps its baby in a pouch?
  2. Name the flightless bird found in New Zealand.
  3. What is the best place to see the coral reef in Australia?
  4. Name the famous war dance of New Zealand?
- 



Being an English ambassador, I was able to hone my leadership skill by successfully leading the junior form students into activities.

**Stephanie Li (5D)**



I learnt time management after being an English ambassador. Juggling between the roles of a student and leader wasn't easy but it was quite worthwhile

**Kitty Lam (5D)**



Being an English ambassador was an enjoyable experience because besides doing serious stuff we had fun-time together during the pizza party. Yum!

**Aaron Tse (5E)**



I loved making banana smoothies and mango popsicles as they turned out to be very tasty. I had the smoothie twice.

**Bryan Chung (2D)**



To me, the activity that was really fun was making snowy mooncakes. Not only did we make the delicious mungo and strawberry mooncakes but also took some home for our parents

**Justin Tai (2D)**



It was a special moment when I wrote a 'thank you' note on the Thanksgiving Day. A big golden heart was prepared and all the notes were put on it. It was overwhelming to see so many thank you notes.

**Emrose Hsu (2D)**



As an English ambassador, I got the privilege to organize activities in the English Corner. That improved my inter-personal skills.

**Jess Lau (4E)**



My spoken and written English became better since I had to communicate with other English ambassadors and participants in English.

**Bob Hui (5E)**



I put my critical thinking to better use when I thought about new interesting activities for the English Corner.

**Tiffany Choi (5E)**



I really enjoyed the "Lantern-riddle Game" as I was able to solve many riddles. It was a fun time with my friends.

**Mary Lam (2D)**



The activity I enjoyed most was the Christmas Bingo game. We learnt many new words. We could also win candy canes as prizes and a BIG candy cane as a mega prize, too!

**Katie Ng (2D)**



Since I've been to New Zealand, it was nice to learn about the culture again. It brought back many fond memories.

**Edward Choy (2D)**

