
TKP Times

Not only does the Amazon Rainforest nurture an array of rare wildlife animals, but more crucially there are many trees and plants that thrive there. However... ..

First Impressions

The new academic year at Yan Oi Tong Tin Ka Ping YOTTKP commenced in September 2019 with a new intake of fresh minds eager to absorb all that this wonderful school has to offer. We would like to first congratulate all Form One students for they have made it tirelessly past their primary years and now they are well on their way through secondary school. We might say for these new comers first impressions are crucial and we hope YOTTKP has done a fantastic job leaving a good mark on them.

A Conversation with Mr. Chan

by Angel Chan 4A Lucus Law 4D

His Background

I was born in Hong Kong and brought up in America. My family migrated to the West Coast of the United States of America when I was just three. Subsequently, I went to high school in Milpitas, California. My high school was Milpitas High. In the US, we call "secondary school" "high school". So that's why it's called Milpitas High. That's my school in California, in the USA. When I went to university, I moved a little bit further away from home. I went to the University of California in Berkeley, also known as UC Berkeley. At UC Berkeley I majored in Genetics and Plant Biology. I always liked science and plants and so I decided to pursue my interests. University life was hectic but rewarding. I was working and studying at the same time. I took on a lot of courses while I was working so I was very busy.

Life in the US and Hong Kong

There are a lot of differences between the US and Hong Kong. I would say one of the main differences is that living in Hong Kong, the pace is different. It is a much faster pace in Hong Kong. People in Hong Kong are always so busy and have so many things to do. But at the same time, people work very fast and efficiently here. If I'm in the US, and I want to open a bank account, it might take me a whole morning or an hour to do it. But here, I think I can probably do the same thing in 10 minutes or less. So people know everyone is busy here and respect that so people work very quickly and efficiently to get things done. In the U.S. things are more relaxed and simpler. But living there is also not as convenient because everyone needs to drive everywhere. That can be exhausting.

Keeping Things Fun

I exercise a lot. I like to play volleyball, basketball, work out at the gym and sometimes play video games just like you guys. I also like to cook and play music. I'm teaching myself the flute. I like practicing the flute. So maybe one day I can play it for you guys. I also play the piano and the violin, although my skills may be a little rusty right now.

Born to Teach

I have taught at several different secondary schools in Hong Kong. I have also worked as a substitute teacher in many different schools. I have taught afterschool phonics programs, summer bridging courses and ran multiple afterschool activities. When I was doing my Ph.D. at HKU, I had to teach biotechnology to undergraduates studying for their bachelor's degree.

Sharing Knowledge

The best English speakers that I know in Hong Kong are those that listened to a lot of English. So, I always tell students to watch more YouTube videos, I mean useful things on it. If you are interested in cooking, watch cooking shows. If you like watching movies, like comedies or horror films, watch movies on the internet. The more you hear, the stronger your English will become, that is actually how babies learn languages too. Babies don't know how to say anything when they are born but when they hear more people talking, they try to copy it on their own and they get better and better. Read more as well. Reading gives you different perspectives and open up your world.

The Sky's the Limit

Remember that school is just the beginning of your life long journey. You are here to lay the foundation for your knowledge, habits, morals, and character. Some students make a big mistake when they come to school without a serious attitude and simply goof off most of the time. It may seem fine to be like that now, but, when you leave secondary school, you will probably have to work a lot harder because you will need to be a lot more independent. If you make silly mistakes in the workplace or a University, mercy is rarely given. So I urge students to do the best they can and not waste their precious time at school. I promise you that continuing to work hard at school is one of the most difficult challenges you will face in life, but, once you lay a good foundation, life just gets better and better! Remember, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Instead of thinking that something is boring and tedious, think of how to make it more enjoyable and simpler!

by Ivan Ng 1A

My name is Ivan Ng and now I'm in secondary school. I'd like to introduce to you a little about my new school life. Secondary school is the beginning of a new challenge in my life. My new school is much bigger than my primary school was and it has facilities that my primary school didn't such as the science labs and the art room.

My experience in this new school has been filled with funny and happy moments, and many of them come from the school's clubs. I am a lucky member of the English Society and the school's English Publication team. We usually meet every Tuesday after school. There are many cool things we can explore and write about.

In my class there are 34 students. At first, there was nobody I knew. But now, I have lots of new friends and they are all very kind. Although we may have some arguments sometimes, we will reconcile after some time.

In our class, everyone has a classroom duty, like pulling down and up the projector screen, keeping the classroom tidy, shutting down all the electrical appliances and electronic equipment after school amongst others.

Our class teachers are Mr. Lau and Miss Tai. Mr. Lau is very funny and he always makes us laugh. We take turns to do the duties in the classroom every day. When I first started to get homework, I felt confused on how to do it. Luckily, the Big Brother and Sisters BBS helped us get through this. They also taught us how to use the homework journal.

Our school gives us lots of opportunities. We had an Athletics Meet in October. I was a part of the cheerleading team. I was glad that my house, which is green house, was the champion. I took part in the 4 by 400 meter race too, I felt exhausted after running 400 meters. Our house won the overall championship together with yellow house.

We were all so excited.

I have already experienced so much at secondary school. I know I should work hard and take an active part in all the opportunities that come my way.

by Bill Pan 1A

I was a little bit nervous to start secondary school. I felt happy to study at a great school in Tuen Mun. I was excited to be studying in an EMI school as I have always wanted to improve my English and I can play all sorts of sports. But I felt a bit nervous because I was worried about making new friends and about adapting to secondary school life. But after being in TKP for just a week, I realized that I was worried about nothing. I have made new friends and adapted to my secondary school life.

I have an abundant school life with a rich offer of activities. I am an English Ambassador and a member of the school's English Publication team. I really think that I have adapted well to my secondary school life, except for some tests or exams though. I feel happy at school because I can do a lot of sports, go out to eat lunch in the afternoon and I know I have an abundance of good friends. Of course, I have learnt many new things and gained new knowledge in TKP.

One of my best friends, Kenny says that he feels proud of himself for getting into TKP. But there's a lot of work to be done. He wants to be better and be curious to improve his English. After a month, he too has adapted well to his new school life at TKP. We both think that being allowed to go out for lunch by ourselves has helped us become more independent and free, like an adult. He is happy to have made so many new friends, too!

To sum up, Kenny and I are enjoying our school life very much!

by Jim Ouyang 1A

Looking over the last two months, I realize that there are many differences between primary and secondary school. The biggest difference is that we don't have to hand in our homework the very next day, sometimes our deadlines are set a week or two later. Secondly, life at secondary school is busier as we study more subjects such as Chinese History and Home Economics. Thirdly, we have a form test every week which means studying on weekends and there isn't as much time to play. The fourth difference is that we can go out for lunch. Lastly, the many different teachers and classmates are all very welcoming.

My biggest challenge is my commute, as I live in Shenzhen. Therefore, I have a very long journey to Tuen Mun every single day. I get very tired as I have to wake up at six in the morning. After breakfast, my dad drives me to Shenzhen bay port. Then, after going through customs with my passport, I get to the taxi station to line up and wait for my friend. Last, we take a taxi straight to school.

Although we wake up very early to try and get to school on time, we are usually late. Life at secondary school may be tiring but I love it because it is fun with lots of new things to explore.

by Billy He 1B

When I first started secondary school, I was extremely worried that I might not have any friends and that I will be very busy. I was worried that if I wasn't happy at school then I wouldn't be able to focus on my work and do well.

In my first lesson, I was scared, I was afraid that the teacher would pick me to answer a question and if I didn't know the answer, it would be very embarrassing. Fortunately, the teacher didn't do that and I was very relieved. I decided to make new friends in the first recess. I went over to some classmates and said something confidently. They were eager to make friends too and asked if I would play basketball with them. I accepted excitedly. I was overjoyed to have made six friends that day! I didn't feel that I would be alone anymore!

The lesson after recess was computer literacy. I was surprised that our teacher taught us in English! In my primary school, our teachers taught us computer literacy in Cantonese. It is different in secondary school. At first, as I wasn't used to it, I couldn't understand what the teacher was saying. But as I got used to it I started to understand more and more.

My first day wasn't as bad as I had imagined. I will continue to be hard-working in the future and help the other new students get used to their school life.

A photograph of two male athletes in a race. The athlete on the left is wearing a red and white patterned shirt and black shorts. The athlete on the right is wearing a yellow t-shirt with a graphic and black shorts. They are running on a track with lush greenery in the background.

UNITED IN STRENGTH - INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS MEET 2019-20

by Cherry Lau, Glory Ng,
Haylie Hui, Vincent Lam 4A

The Inter-House Athletics Meet Heats and Finals of this year were held at Tan Shiu Kin Sports Ground, Tuen Mun, on 15th and 16th October respectively.

In great weather, our athletes were able to showcase their best performances while cheers and chants of support echoed through the sports ground. The excitement peaked when different houses competed against each other in relays. Some of the most memorable moments were during the event of student-teacher relays. The students in the spectators' stand all cheered for their teachers competing against other students.

Principal Ng. gave the opening speech to start the school's 33rd Athletics Meet. She gave an inspiring speech to all students to have fun and try their best.

This year, we were honoured to have the vice-chairperson of Yan Oi Tong, Mrs. Ng, as the guest of honour for the closing ceremony. Mrs. Ng commended the participation level of students and performance of the athletes. She encouraged us to carry on with perseverance.

Just like last year and the years before, our fellow athletes filled the sports ground in Tuen Mun with great excitement and loud cheers. While the athletes spared no effort in competing fiercely, our cheering teams too were there in full form dedicating their greatest support for their respective houses. Hours of hard work were evident in their spectacular performances. Green house was the cheerleading champion this year.

But most of all at this event, the athletes once again were united in mutual encouragement as many records were broken in different grades. In Girls A. Grade, there were a total of

three new records. Esther Lau broke the Long Jump record while Jillie Tsang and Daisy Leung broke the high jump and shot put records respectively.

There was a very special case in Girls B Grade javelin competition this year. Cherry Lau broke the old record, but then Zoe Ho also broke Cherry's record. Both of them broke the javelin record in Girls B Grade eventually. Not only students, but there were some teachers too who joined various competitions with great results. Mr. Fong who ran in the 1500m event got first-runner up. javelin competition and got second-runner up. Congratulations to all winners!

Let's see what different people had to say about the Athletics Meet, shall we?

Ms. LeBon, our new NET teacher said she was delighted to see such enthusiasm and a competitive but friendly



atmosphere amongst the four houses. She appreciated the evident high level of participation and good teamwork; each and every athlete tried their best to win points for their houses. She was excited to be a part of it all this year.

Jillie Tsang, a house captain from yellow house, said she worked well with Ellie, her partner. They shared the workload together. For example, Ellie ordered the lunchboxes for the members and managed things related to the purchases of house T-shirts while Jillie managed the cheerleading team and house accessories. Not only yellow house, but members of all houses showed great unity and good teamwork.

Matthew Yeung, one of the house captains of green house, another winning house talked about the preparation, Matthew told us that our athletics meet was held earlier this year than the years before. Preparations became very urgent. In addition to

this, because of the recent political protests, two cheerleading practices were cancelled. Luckily, extra practices were added for them. So the preparation could be carried on successfully. We won our first double championship this year. Matthew said that at first he was quite surprised but then he thought it was quite a rare situation and he was quite fortunate to experience it. "Seeing that the members of the two winning houses tried their best to cheer on their house members and participate in different competitions, I can see that our efforts weren't wasted."

Calvin Li was an MVP in Boys B Grade category. Calvin said he was happy with his performance this year. However, although he was awarded the MVP, he thought that he still has a lot of room for improvement. The biggest disappointment for him this year was the Boys B grade long jump record. He thought that

he could break that record confidently. Unfortunately, he could not break the record this year. Also, he felt his fitness level was not the best this year. Calvin believes there's always room for improvement. He hopes to exercise more in the future for better fitness.

Lastly, our dear PE teacher, Mr. Lau is going to retire at the end of this school year. Mr Lau has been teaching at our school for more than 30 years. He has taught us many useful skills and he has told us many interesting stories in our PE lessons. That was the last Athletic Meet with Mr Lau and we hope that all of us will treasure our moments and remember the lovely times with him. We wish him a wonderful retirement.

Although some of us may not have been winners this time, we won't give up! We can exercise more and improve our fitness for next year's Athletic Meet. Hope we can see you on the podium next year!

Haymarket – Committed to Responsible Journalism by Patricia Wong and Joyce Tang 5B

On September 17, 2019, members of the English Society visited the Hong Kong offices of Haymarket Media Group. Haymarket Asia is a digital, events and data-driven business that creates specialist content for audiences in the finance and marketing communications sectors across the Asia-Pacific region.

Ms. Atifa Silk, the brand director of the magazine Campaign, welcomed us and gave a tour leading up to the training room. We were greeted by a modern and spacious working space located in a factory building in Quarry Bay. After receiving some refreshments, Ms. Silk talked about the company's core values: integrity and accuracy of the latest news, and being a reliable and respected news source. Then Matthew Miller, the Managing Editor of the company, shared how they generate ideas for their publication, the topics and how to source information. Finally, the Head of Design, Christopher Howlett shared how creativity is encouraged, ideas are supported and staff members can work on ideas that excite them. He introduced to us several design programs and showed us how they work. We learnt a lot from them about being in an age of fake

news and alternative facts, how important it is to be committed to responsible journalism.

About ideas generation, Mathew Miller presented how they mainly write articles related to different industries and brand content from medical agencies, environment, marketing communication even finance and automotive. As a result, the topics covered are about successful and not so successful advertising and marketing campaigns and the latest trends and developments in different industries.

But, how can they source so much new information and so quickly? This is a question you might have in your mind, and the answer is they get information from online sources and from their journalists. They are constantly on the lookout for the latest news and report it as soon as possible, or they send journalists to get content directly, usually for feature articles. Matthew shared that they have to get their articles done by noon, so to make sure their readers can get the latest and update information, so this is also a huge challenge for them. They are a digital magazine so information is constantly updated and posted quickly. Luckily

Matthew's team work well with each other and the challenges are never a problem for them.

At the final part of the talk, we had Christopher Howlett, the head of design talk about creativity and programs useful for layout and cover design. Creativity is directly related to advertising, so they look for powerful images to send a message to their readers.

After all the editing work is done, the most important part is the layout, which means the presentation of the magazine, such as cover design, special effects of photos and font. Which software is helpful in doing this? Christopher shared software for different purposes, including Adobe illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign. Illustrator is for drawing illustrations in any style you like. Photoshop adds special effects to photos like filters, or is used to delete some flaws in the photos. And InDesign is for the design and layout of the whole magazine.

All in all, the talks were inspiring as we learnt about integrity and responsible journalism. We also got to know more about how to publish a magazine which will be useful in starting our own English language publication at school.

Reflection

There is no doubt that I learnt a lot about the professional process of producing a magazine. Through detailed speeches from three industry professionals including editors and designers, I now understand what it takes to put together a successful magazine that is not only eye-catching, but also one created with passion which is evident in its content. I believe that this is the only way to achieve a broader audience who wholeheartedly believe in you.

Joyce, 5B

After the visit, I realized that there are a lot of criteria for a good magazine. What impressed me the most is the design part, I thought layout is just about inserting photos, but in reality it is more involved than I expected. You need to edit pictures to match the style. Apart from design, writing articles also requires a lot of inspiration and thought. Matthew's sharing gave me some ideas on writing an article and what to pay attention to. Overall, I was greatly inspired.

Patricia, 5B

The Tuck Shop – Food for Thought

by Yoyo Lui 4B

Dear members of the Student Union,

I am writing to you to bring your kind attention towards the fact that most of the food items that are being sold at the school canteen are either prepackaged, processed items or fast food. This could have serious effects on the health of the students. Furthermore, I want to make some recommendations for the improvement of canteen services.

My first recommendation is that the canteen contractor should be changed. The present contractor does not supply enough good quality snacks and lunch boxes to students. The food is oily and of poor quality. It is greasy to the point that oil often seeps through the packaging. The biggest sellers in the tuck shop are instant noodles, potato crisps, sweets and soft drinks. Leading nutritionists warn, junk food sold in school canteens adds to poor mental health, learning difficulties and even changes the way student's brains develop. The school canteen must sell nutritious and healthy foods such as, fresh fruit salad, fruit yogurt, fruit, fresh fruit juices and healthy lunch options.

My second recommendation is that another counter should be built as a part of the canteen complex exclusively for either junior or senior students. Students are faced with long lines at recess and lunchtime and many a times, there isn't enough food to go around. Many times there aren't any lunch boxes left for students even for those who had preordered them. An additional counter could help alleviate some of the recess and lunchtime traffic in the canteen.

Thirdly, for convenience the canteen should accept payment via cash and octopus. For efficiency students should be allowed to pay for snacks, drinks and even lunches without struggling. Payment using both cash and octopus is the solution. The acceptance of both forms of payment on the canteen premises should be considered.

Sure, the tuck shop has its merits, for example, the smiles from the canteen staff and the canteen is always a relaxed and a friendly place to go to. Albeit there's no denying that the welfare of the students should be put first. Our school should offer advice on selling less junk food and more high-fiber snacks and fruit. All food served in the school should be conducive to teaching healthy eating. Students may continue to ask for fried chicken with white rice and no vegetables. But if we teach them what a well-balanced meal is, they are more likely to accept it. As members of the student union we would like your help to see some changes.

Best regards,
A hungry student

5 Awesome Youtubers that Engage and Delight Viewers

by Cherry Mak 4B

Youtube has become the launchpad for the next generation of celebrities, personalities and big stars. Well-known names like PewDiePie and NigaHiga have racked up millions of subscribers over the years by uploading videos on YouTube and forming seemingly personal relationships with their fans. From comedians to gamers to bloggers of all kinds, YouTubers have harnessed the video-sharing platform to build their followings and brands from nothing more than a video camera and a solid internet connection.

Get inspired by some of the most engaging and delightful YouTubers.

PewDiePie

Felix Arvid Ulf Kjellberg is a Swedish YouTuber, and he is also the most viewed and subscribed channel on YouTube. Now, he has 101 million subscribers, and his videos have 23 billion views. His interests shifted from playing horror games to playing Minecraft. Recently, he releases video reviews on memes as well as talks about the dark side of humans and society. Famous as he is, he stays humble. Interestingly, he does not even know why his fans scream when they meet him at first since he does not like his fans to regard him as a 'celebrity'.

NigaHiga

NigaHiga, also known as Ryan, is a Hawaiian YouTuber. He initiated his channel when he and his friend, Sean Fujiyoshi, posted a video of them lip syncing songs in 2006, and it accidentally went viral. Now, he operates his channel with his friends. He always makes high-quality videos which take lots of effort to do, including stop motion animations and dramas. What truly deserves applause is that he never makes videos out of fame.

TwoSetViolin

TwoSetViolin was founded in 2014 by Australian duo, Brett and Eddy. They first went viral with their funny and sometimes painfully accurate videos depicting life as a classical musician. With over 3,500,000 followers and over 300 million views across social media, TwoSet inspires musicians worldwide with humor and a relatable 'imperfectness.' They are helping make classical music relevant to the modern generation through fun, humour and simplicity. They make videos related to music, mainly violin. Although I may not be interested in the violin, the content is still fun to watch. They review memes related to music which are actually hard to find. Also you can learn some cool stuff about classical music from this channel. It's definitely worth a watch.

RD English

RD is the short name of Ray Du. He is a Taiwanese youtuber who makes some of his videos in Mandarin but mainly he makes videos to teach English. His content includes teaching of grammar, accent and pronunciation. Sometimes he invites his sister as a co-host. I learn a lot from them.

Uncle Siu

Same as RD English, he is also an English teaching channel, but he is a Hong Konger. I think he is friendly to watch as he speaks the same language as us. He teaches how to read and understand English and the differences between the Hong Kong and British accents. I've learnt that there are a lot of differences and interesting things to know.

Amazon on Fire

by Margaret Yan 4A

Hailed as the Lung of Earth and the largest tropical rainforest, the Amazon plays an essential role in the world as it covers an area of 5,500,000km². First and foremost, the number of fires in the Amazon has increased by 111% since the start of Jair Bolsonaro's presidency. According to the latest data, published by space research centre INPE, about 2.5 million hectares of land was set on fire in August in the Brazilian Amazon – equal to 23 Hong Kongs. In 2015, illegal logging of the Amazon was rampant again. This was a result of skyrocketing demand for palm oil. As supplier pressure increases, Brazilian farmers clear their land to make more space for crops like palm oil, and soy by burning trees. Eventually this often results in escalating amounts of wildfires in the Amazon. of the Earth. Moreover, it is home to 10% of all plants and animals in the world: including 40,000 kinds of plants, 400 types of mammals and 1,300 kinds

of birds. Also, tens of thousands of indigenous people dwell in the rainforest. You might have noticed that recently the Amazon was ablaze, and it lasted for a few weeks, the extent of which was devastating and unprecedented.

Not only was this an "ecological tragedy" but it resulted in a massive loss of trees and epic wildlife creatures, but more vitally it spread widespread panic of another serious global issue -- climatic change.

Not only does the Amazon Rainforest nurture an array of rare wildlife animals, but more crucially there are many trees and plants that thrive there. With optimum sunlight and a tropical climate, the rate of photosynthesis and the net release of oxygen here are believed to be the highest contributing source of oxygen to world's atmosphere, which further indicates that the Amazon Rainforest is an essential prerequisite for sustaining the lives of entire organisms on Earth. However, this is a thin gruel. To clarify, the supply of oxygen in the atmosphere is so stable that it does not only rely on the supply from the Amazon. The net release of oxygen gas in rainforests on Earth only contributes to almost 6 % of that on the entire Earth. Yet the amount of oxygen released through photosynthesis is only the tip of the iceberg when compared to the sufficient abundance of oxygen in the atmosphere. Above all, the Amazon forest doesn't contribute as much oxygen gas as you might have thought.

First and foremost, the number of fires in the Amazon has increased by 111% since the start of Jair Bolsonaro's presidency. According to the

latest data, published by space research centre INPE, about 2.5 million hectares of land was set on fire in August in the Brazilian Amazon – equal to 23 Hong Kongs. In 2015, illegal logging of the Amazon was rampant again. This was a result of skyrocketing demand for palm oil. As supplier pressure increases, Brazilian farmers clear their land to make more space for crops like palm oil, and soy by burning trees. Eventually this often results in escalating amounts of wildfires in the Amazon.

You might think that the Amazon wildfire has a tiny effect on you and that it doesn't bother you at all. Nevertheless, it is still impactful in terms of ecological and economic factors. It still affects you in many aspects considerably that you may not be aware of.

Ecologically, the massive destruction of habitats and the huge loss of vegetation cause a severe impact on the global ecological system and biodiversity. As the aforementioned fact, the Amazon nurtures an assortment of exotic wildlife creatures and trees. Many of these animals have lost their shelter due to a serious destruction of the forest. Moreover, many animals are herbivorous. Loss of trees equals to loss of food source for them. It is public knowledge that animals and plants are interdependent, instead of the relationship of the consumed and the consumers. The food chain and

biodiversity are therefore profoundly and globally affected and harmed.

Economically, ecotourism in the Amazon is very profitable to Brazil's GDP. Nevertheless, the destruction of the rainforest ends this benefit of that. Every year, many tourists and ecology enthusiasts come to visit the 'Planet's Lung' in order to explore into nature, and satisfy their curiosity of the Earth. Although ecotourism in the Amazon Rainforest is still in its infancy, especially in the northern Amazon, tourism is still beneficial at key ports along the Amazon River. Ecotourism in the Amazon Rainforest is very lucrative, as one Amazon-ecotour-cluster demonstrated that by generating US\$11.6 million in 2005. The ecosystem has a great potential for economic development. Nevertheless profitable it was, now the Amazon rainforest cannot generate such high profits due to the wildfires.

To conclude, this 'ecological tragedy' has an influential impact on ecological and economical and societal sectors. What we can do to soothe and remediate is donation. There are many NGOs organising global donations on social media. Why don't you donate to show your generosity to the world and help recover the Amazon? The recovery is a long-time journey indeed. But remember: It takes years to build a structure. But it takes seconds to wreck it. Cherish what our Earth provides, the gift to you--nature.

A TERROR-IFIC TIME

by Benedict Ku 4A

Halloween, a festival of horror and monsters combined, where people suit up in creative costumes and 'trick or treat' for candies, is most popular in North America and Canada. In Hong Kong, people only go trick-or-treating when they're in theme parks. However, did you know that Halloween is a much much bigger festival than it is in Hong Kong?

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31st. In North America and Canada, where the festival is most popular, people celebrate by dressing up in original costumes and attending parties, they even decorate their houses, watch horror movies, visit haunted houses, build bonfires, carve jack o' lanterns, and go trick or treating.

Festivals similar to Halloween are also celebrated in other parts of the world.

From Ireland to Haiti, countries across the globe have their own festivals celebrating the afterlife, and the practices vary from place to place.

Mexico: D í a de los Muertos

Mexico and Spain are famous for Día de los Muertos, or "Day of the Dead," which is celebrated annually from October 31 to November 2.

Locals dress up as their ancestors and build private altars called "ofrendas," which they use to present gifts – from sugar skulls to tequila – to the dead.



Italy: Tutti i Morti

All Souls Day is a religious affair in Italy where people remember their late loved ones, but people on the island of Sardinia have also celebrated Halloween for centuries by carving pumpkins. The locals call them "Concas de Mortu," which means "heads of the dead."



Northern Ireland: Banks of the Foyle

Ireland is believed to be where Halloween was first celebrated. Londonderry is home to Europe's largest Halloween carnival — Banks of the Foyle — which offers everything from a grand parade to an interactive haunted house experience.



While trick-or-treating and dressing up as ghosts are common practices in countries like the US, other places have their own twists on the tradition. The Cambodians, for example, forego the trick-or-treating altogether to race buffalo.

In other places like Canada and the US, Halloween is a massive celebration. For Americans, Halloween connects different people through costumes. And that does not stop there. Each town has a "haunted house" for kids to explore and after they finish their adventure, copious amounts of candy is awarded for their bravery.

For many people in Hong Kong Halloween is a relatively new festival and the only thing that matters to them is their costume. However, Halloween has actually existed for more than 1400 years. The first ever Halloween was a Christian festival. On that day, Christians prayed for their relatives who had passed away in hopes for ensuring a place in heaven for them.

Overall, while being just a small celebration in Hong Kong, Halloween is a much bigger occasion internationally. I hope that as more people get to know about its history, more will participate in similar Halloween events too.

TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE

by Jeremy Lee 4A

Hi Ming,

How're you doing in Hong Kong? It's that time of year again! The time to celebrate the fall before it gets too cold, and a time to celebrate a holiday before the world is taken over by Christmas. There are so many things to enjoy about Halloween. It may not be everyone's favourite holiday, but there are so many elements of it, that there's something for everyone to enjoy. Did you do anything for Halloween? Bet you didn't even notice it because it isn't popular in Hong Kong. Let me share some of my Halloween stories with you.

For starters, the costumes! Halloween is the one time of year that we have where we can dress up as whatever and whomever we want. Have a favourite movie character? Be them for Halloween! Have a favourite celebrity? Favourite animal? Be that for Halloween! Let's face it- dressing up is fun. This is a photo of me and my pals in our Halloween costumes. Wearing a costume is one of the most important elements of Halloween. Wearing a costume is easy but wearing a hilarious and an unforgettable one is hard. We tried on lots of costumes, but we still couldn't find the perfect one. Finally we settled on this one in the photo.

Another thing I love about Halloween is the atmosphere as a whole. There's something about the dark and spooky feeling that is fun to be a part of each year. Haunted houses, scary movies, so many ways to celebrate the most-wicked time of year. It's the best time to watch a creepy Halloween movie too! Believe it or not, in America all houses are decorated on Halloween. I think in Hong Kong you probably don't have a chance to decorate your house like ours. So I am going to show you how we decorate our houses here. There are two popular ways you can either be funny like this house with a "UFO crash" in the picture or that spooky looking house in the picture below.

The last thing left to do is to go trick-or-treating. This is also one of the most important things to do on Halloween. People wear costumes and go to their friend's houses to ask for candy or other kinds of treats. The funniest thing happened when we were on our way to the first house. Everyone was staring at us as they walked by. After knocking on the first door, and the lady who answered was hoping to see kids in cute costumes asking for candy but at the moment she opened the door, the only thing she saw was seven muscular men dressed in trousers and gloves saying 'Trick-or-treat!' to her. She fainted immediately. After a while, she woke up and said that she saw heaven. We burst out laughing as our costumes had a knock out effect. This was the best Halloween ever.

Halloween may only come once a year, but come November 1st when Christmas takes over and the candy is on sale of half price, we'll all be counting down the days until next year. It's unfortunate that Halloween is not popular in Hong Kong, but if you want to try enjoying this fun festival, you're more than welcome to visit me in America, next year. I'll get your costume ready.

Spooky wishes,
James



Chapter 1 The four- , three thieves

by Joson Chan 3D

I am Jason, a professional thief, and I have no idea how things ended up like this, I cannot sleep but recall my memories before all this, this disaster, happened...

It was just like any ordinary afternoon, and we four were in the Cafe that we are used to going every time we finished our 'job' ...

'Jack, so what did we get anyway?' I asked.

'Just old stuff, a diamond ring and some cash that was hidden in the drawer. Some gold artifact of some sort... Ah, I almost forgot, and a silver plate with some weird symbol on it, the symbol was so weird.' Jack said as he drew out the plate from her purse.

It was one shiny plate, and it was made of silver. There were weird symbols even I cannot describe, but it looked like a weird some sort of face. We all looked at it and we didn't put much attention on it just as if like it was any ordinary silver ring.

'Hey Jack, when are we gonna get our share?' asked Sam, he said in a tone that made me feel like he was in desperate need of money,

'Ah you'll get it, don't be in such a hurry, I'll get you your split by next Tuesday after I sell all this stuff, I promise.' replied Jack.

'Yeah don't forget to give me my split too.' said Pauline...

Everything seemed to be just fine, just like every time we got out safely and got our money.

But it wasn't.

It was a Monday morning, and I received a call from Pauline, she said.

'I can't contact Jack, can you? He is not picking up any of my phone calls.' I didn't think it was any serious business because Jack sometimes doesn't pick up his calls when he is busy doing something else.

'Ah, don't be so anxious, he's probably taking a shower.' I said.

'But I've been calling him all day!' Pauline said, nervously.

'What? The whole day?' I answered surprised, because Jack is such a responsible and reliable person, we chose him to be the person to deal with our loot.

I noticed that something wasn't right, and I ended the call by saying,

'I'll go to his home now, I'll call you back.' But I would've never known how dumb this decision was, although how logically correct it seemed.

I drove down from Queens to Brooklyn, and on the way, I told myself to calm down because there are so many reasons this could've happened. The worst I thought is that Jack was greedy and took all the money and fled. I had never, ever, thought that Xanos, the big group, well-known in the underworld of New York, would've been responsible for everything that happened to all of us.

I parked by the roadside, got out of the car and went up the stairs to Jack's front door. I rang the doorbell, there was no response. I knocked on the door, there was no response. I knocked on the door so forcefully sawdust fell from the edges of his door, but there was still no response. I knocked so hard that a person walking on the sidewalk looked at me as if I was trying to break in, I looked at him in the eye with a bit of embarrassment. Maybe it's because the person didn't want any trouble, he didn't cause any trouble and went on with his walk. I was a bit frustrated at that point, and I decided to use my 'talent'.

I climbed up to the window on the second floor, and with a shoulder smash, I was in the house, and it was then, I saw the body of Jack, lying on the ground, the carpet soaked in blood which flowed from the opening in his neck to the bottom of the staircase. Jack's eyes were wide open and filled with shock; he must've been assassinated brutally with a swift knife cut.

-to be continued

50 Shades of Ha Chi

by James Yeung 5B

Ku Ha Chi Herrema, aged 25, lived in Beijing. Her name was Ha Chi because she was born in Ha Chi, the longest day of the summer. She was a modern woman with short hair and crescent shaped eyes that were full of innocence and enthusiasm. Hence, she came across as attractive to many boys.

Chapter One

'Ding ding!' the sign for keeping seatbelts fastened finally went off. The door of the aircraft opened at once. Herrema left the airport and headed to her new apartment.

After arriving at her new apartment, she unpacked her multiple outfits and wore a suit. She sprayed on some Creed Mountain Fragrance which made people feel you were cool, and then she went off to her new office. In the rented car, she listened to the broadcast on the radio, 'Time now is noon on Sunday 20th October 2046. Today is the sale of the latest series of Chanel handbags. There are a lot of people queuing up at the entrance some have queued up for days before the sale. Although the prices are high but the materials used are perfect is what people say. Next, there is a new horrible haunted house that has even scared our reporters away. We sincerely recommend brave people to try going in.' Herrema, as a modern fashionable woman, was a loyal fan of Chanel. After she heard the shocking news, her forehead wrinkled as she thought about how to get to the sale. By that time, she arrived at the building where her office was. She swiped her fingerprint and entered her new office via a secret lift. She entered a dark and silent area with blue wallpaper. She didn't know why there weren't any people working there. She realized it was Sunday. As there was nothing except a desk, a chair, and a desktop computer, she sent a "wish list" to the secretary through the company's email system to ask for choosing new and appropriate furniture.

Next, she used the web to search for handbags. A secret message caught her attention, 'How to buy the Chanel handbag without queuing so long.' Herrema clicked on it but she found the content morally wrong. Hence she closed the website but left a comment sharing her opinion. She then left the office and returned home. She started to cook. Living single for 20 years, learning how to cook well had been a piece of cake. She used some raw ingredients and made many delicious dishes that could fill up the whole round table. Although she was a foodie, he was not fat at all. Instead, she gained a lot of respect and envy from other people. They wondered how she could stay in shape even after eating a lot.

On the second morning, the sporty girl started doing exercise at the start of the day. Next, she had a latte with some protein powder. After a bath, she started dressing in a white blouse and sprayed "Bleu de channel", a playful-smelling fragrance to attract the attention of colleagues. After finishing all this, she went to her office.

On the first day of work, Herrema introduced herself. While she was speaking, two of the junior staff started to whisper.

Even though they were whispering, the lady heard clearly what they said, 'This workaholic will make us spend our nights at work.' She pointed at them and replied, 'Even though I may be a workaholic, I would not treat you like this. I would let you enjoy the thrilling and exciting nightlife. Everyone was silent due to her acute sense of hearing. To ease this embarrassing situation, she called on her secretary to give them tasks to do. Although they had received training from the former secretary, Herrema was still worried about their ability. Hence, she asked the two secretaries to search follow the instructions in her email and search for the appropriate furniture within two days.

After delegating those tasks, she switched on the computer and read feedback from a stranger, 'you steal or you grab! You can see my experience in my blog, you're welcome.' She saw different cases that were quite weird. There weren't many hints or directions for her to investigate.

One of the incidents was as follows: A girl called Amy, who was a university student, changed her personality a lot after she fell asleep in a Chanel store. It was quite mysterious.

No personal laptops in school

No laptops should be allowed in school, because of games and illegal websites. Illegal pictures, cyber bullying, and other things students in school don't need to be doing would become common place. Bringing devices to school would only help aggravate these problems. Wouldn't it be more convenient for students to use the computers at school because problematic websites and actions are blocked? Many inappropriate things on personal computers are not blocked. Browsing information unrelated to studies may be against the school rules and if caught, those students would be punished. Eventually, students may not be allowed to bring laptops due to a lack of self-discipline. Also, some stricter rules would be put in place. This will surely cause conflict between teachers and students.

Laptops are expensive

Some parents can't afford laptops so some would have laptops and some wouldn't. Schools would have to have extra funding to support those families who can't afford laptops.

Laptops can break down easily.

Laptop repair can be expensive so schools would also need to consider how to allocate more resources and budget for buying and repairing notebook computers.

Your work may be lost

Let's say you took notes in class and you finished your homework on your laptop but it suddenly shut down without saving or your work saved but your laptop got damaged. In the case you need to reformat your computer, all your hard work would be lost forever. And another reason why laptops shouldn't be allowed in schools is that your hand writing could only get worse with time.

You can't change the human brain

Yes laptops are helpful but you are most likely to remember when you write things down. That's why I think we shouldn't have laptops in classrooms. Moreover, if students can bring their laptops to class and do everything on the laptop why would we need books? And why would we need teachers if we could use the internet to get all information? So, why would we need a teacher?

Instead, we could get everything from the internet.

Should laptops be

Transition

Some may argue that students will play games instead of studying. Well, it depends on whether a student wants to have a bright future. If they choose to play games in lessons, it would be their loss. Students have the responsibility to practice self-control in order to enjoy such liberties.

To Sum Up

Because of all the benefits mentioned above, surely we must be allowed to bring a laptop to school. This will only benefit both students and teachers in completing their work at school. Laptops will be beneficial better for the whole school community.

Against: Joshua and Marco

To Sum Up

Allowing the usage of laptops in school could be a good idea. Bringing a laptop to school can allow students to stay organised and focused, allow students to look up words, have an easier way to take notes and create an environmentally-friendly atmosphere. However, it will cause discipline problems if laptops are misused. The cost of buying software and repair is also expensive. Therefore, teachers should consider the pros and cons of using laptops at school before deciding.

Allowed at School?

for: **Cyrus and Martin**

personal laptops should be in Schools

Technology is the way of the future and there is no denying that in a few years these types of gadgets will become a necessity at school. So, why not start now? It is good practice for students to get familiar with the use of technology early on as there are not many jobs out there where you don't need the basic knowledge of how to use a laptop. In the long run it will definitely be worthwhile. Plus, students already know a lot about technology as it is such an essential part of their everyday lives

Laptops are much faster than text books. They have more information than textbooks. It's much faster to look up things on a laptop. You can find the most current information on a topic online. Laptops can be handy in doing research. They can also act as an e-dictionary as students can look up words online.

Therefore, laptops can be a complement to any lesson and quite effective in terms of time management in the class.

We Need to Save Paper

We need to start saving the earth's resources and be more environmentally friendly. Schools use thousands of packs of paper a year, meaning several thousand trees need to be cut down. Laptops can eliminate this, plus we can be more organized by storing all our work in one place. This will also help the teacher to collect assessments and mark online, which can help save time. We should remember that "time is precious".

Allow Students to Stay Organised

Students prefer using laptops to take notes over paper and pencil method because it is neater and quicker to type, and takes up less room

than paper. Many international schools already require typed documents in English, history, and economics. Having your own computer makes it much easier for students to stay organized as they can plan a study schedule and work with it accordingly. High schools in England allow students to bring laptops to school to share documents and work with others. While in the U.K. on summer exchange, all students used laptops in lessons and they went online to elaborate on points.

laptops, Calculators and Rulers

A laptop is just another tool available to the student. In the 70's it was calculators. In the 00's it's the laptop or more accurately mobile computing device. There are more important things for students to do than calculate square roots with a pencil and paper. The whole universe is accessible through the internet enabled laptop. Why would we restrict access to that? Students can also build better tables and graphs.

TKP Times

This year, the English Society launched our first ever English language publication, TKP Times. The idea was initiated to teach invaluable skills to students. It allows freedom for students to be creative, freedom to write about issues of importance to them. It allows them to generate ideas, gives them permission to safely express those ideas, and teaches them critical thinking skills they'll need later on in life.

Getting involved with the publication also helps prepare students for a skilled job market. Graphic design and web layout are just a few of the examples of expertise students have the freedom to explore and learn within a school newspaper.

TKP Times will feature fiction, articles, interviews, and debates. The publication will cover relevant news from around the school and the world.

The content in our first issue brings a personal interview with Mr. Chan, our new English teacher. If you are his big fan then check it out!

If you are tired of the tuck shop, you better read the letter to the Student Union about some suggestions for improvements and see whether these would be helpful to you or not.

Have you ever thought of using gadgets such as laptops at school? Take a look at our debate to see what students think. Last but not least, we have included some first impressions from form one students. These freshmen share their feelings about a new school year. Read your friends' first impression and maybe you will find it's the same as yours!

We have tried our best to include a variety of articles and we hope you will enjoy reading our first issue.

We give credit to the following student: Yoyo Lui 4B Chief Designer

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