

Paulinian Post

March

ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

Issue II

From a Railway Carriage to Winning Second Place

I am absolutely thrilled and immensely proud to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our extraordinary Choral Speaking Team for their remarkable achievement of securing the second place at the prestigious 75th Hong Kong Schools' Speech Festival.

The collective effort and unwavering commitment of our talented students in reciting Robert Louis Stevenson's captivating poem, *From a Railway Carriage*, in perfect synchronisation with their movements, was excellently executed. Their dedication, hard work, and exceptional performance showcased their immense talent and determination. This incredible accomplishment is a testament to their passion for the spoken word, teamwork, and perseverance. Bravo to each and every one of them!

– Principal Kwan Pui Ling



Our Competition Piece

A Poem by Robert Louis Stevenson

From A Railway Carriage (1885)

*Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle,
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:*

*All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.*

*Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,
All by himself and gathering brambles;
Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;
And there is the green for stringing the daisies!*

*Here is a cart run away in the road
Lumping along with man and load;
And here is a mill and there is a river:
Each a glimpse and gone for ever!*

Choral Speaking Competition

Comments from the Adjudicator



A good beginning - you set the scene well and there is both sound, movement and painting in your performance. It can be seen that you really enjoyed yourself both preparing and performing the poem.

You start off with a slow movement, as if the train is starting and then you pick up speed, just as train would. I like the sight painting of pictures within the choir - each little episode is done well and appropriately, and does not seem to intrude into the whole blend of the poem.

Your sound effects are also done with precision and appropriateness and the ending is as good as the beginning.

- Mr Simon Tham

Choral Speaking Team

As one of the teachers-in-charge of the Choral Speaking Team, I couldn't be prouder of you, our amazing students.

Firstly, I want to commend you for your unfaltering dedication. Despite having packed schedules with other extracurricular activities, you never missed a weekly practice and even attended extra training sessions during recess and after lunch. Your resolute energy and commitment to prioritising our team are truly commendable, even if it meant sacrificing some of your class time.

Secondly, I am grateful for your willingness to embrace my guidance. I might have been meticulous in focusing on specific sounds and had you repeat lines countless times, but your perseverance paid off as you delivered with remarkable precision.

Lastly, I applaud your willingness to fully immerse yourselves in the imagery of the poem, bringing it to life with dramatic flair. It takes courage to be so expressive in front of a large audience, but you stepped out of your comfort zone and faced the challenges head-on. I sincerely hope that these three months of training have imparted valuable lessons to each and every one of you.

– **Ms Sharon Chan**
Editor-in-Chief of Paulinian Post



Choral Speaking Team

Thoughts and Feelings After the Competition

In these three months of choral speaking practice, I have improved my English speaking skills and concentration. When the judge announced that we had won second, I was delighted. I felt that all of our efforts had paid off. Through this experience, I would like to express my gratitude to Ms Leung and Ms Chan for preparing us for the competition. Without their help, we would not have achieved this score.

– **Claire Tam 6D**

When the judge announced our team as the first runner-up, a mix of emotions flooded my heart. It was both rewarding and exhausting. The hours of rehearsal taught me the value of teamwork and the importance of practice for achieving perfection. I am sincerely grateful to our teachers, especially Ms Chan, for their invaluable guidance and unwavering support.

– **Charlotte Tin 5B**

I would like to express my gratitude to our hardworking teachers and acknowledge the effort we put into our practice, resulted in us achieving second place in the competition. I still recall when the judge announced our placement, we let out a triumphant “YEAH!” The feeling at that moment is unforgettable.

– **Kristinie Chan 6A**

When the judge announced us as the first runner-up, I was so excited because we practised a lot and we always encourage each other when we need help. I learnt a lesson that we have to be confident and cooperative. Thank you all the teachers for giving me a chance to take part in the competition!

– **Alexa Liu 5C**

I will never forget the moment when the judge announced that we had placed second. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ms Chan and Ms Leung for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful ‘choo choo train’! This journey has been immensely enjoyable and will undoubtedly remain one of the most memorable activities in my last year of primary school. Thank you!

– **Katie Shek 6A**

I was nervously holding hands with my teammates while waiting for the results, and I was extremely thrilled when the judge announced us as the first runner-up. I felt that all the hard work - the grins, the poses, the intonations that we had practised millions of times - had paid off. It was truly a splendid choo-choo journey! I want to express my gratitude to all the choral teachers for guiding us through this experience.

– **Hailey Mak 6D**

Choral speaking is not as easy as people think. It actually requires countless hours of practice and teamwork. Throughout this entire journey, our teachers, Ms Leung and Ms Chan, have guided and supported us every step of the way. I am truly grateful for their dedication. I was both thrilled and shocked when the judge announced us as the first runner-up. It holds significant meaning as it reflects our hard work and dedication during practice. I am grateful to have had my teachers and teammates by my side throughout this entire experience.

– **Lettie Ng 5A**

Thoughts and Feelings After the Competition

Whenever I think of this unforgettable experience, a triumphant smile always crosses my face. I remember how diligently we practised for two months. Finally, the day of the competition arrived, and we set off nervously yet excitedly. When we arrived, our hands and legs were shaking, but thanks to the encouragement of our teachers, we were able to perform at our best. All the hard work, practice, and moments of exhaustion were worth it.

– **Hanna Chow 6C**

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the teachers who guided us throughout this journey. Our achievement of second place would not have been possible without their guidance. They were the main reason for this joyous moment, and I want to sincerely thank them.

– **Hayden Chung 5B**

Winning second place has filled me with pride. I have learned that winning is not everything; the journey itself is rewarding. Countless hours of practice have taught me the value of perseverance, teamwork, and discipline. I have come to understand that success comes from hard work and dedication, and failures provide us with opportunities to learn and grow. I am immensely grateful to our guiding teacher, Ms. Sharon Chan, whose support helped us overcome various challenges. The memories and lessons from this experience will always hold a special place in my heart.

– **Hailey Wong 6C**



Needless to say, I feel happy and joyful getting second place. But something more important is that I have learned a lot of new skills during our practices. I have learned how to be more confident, patient, and helpful. It's part of our team spirit. We help each others, showing the sense of ownership of the team. Of course there are many challenges and difficulties.

At last, I want to say thank you to Miss Chan and Miss Leung for teaching us for 3 months, preparing us for the competition. I hope I will have another chance to join the English Choral Speaking Team next year.

– **Hailey Leung 5C**

I couldn't believe our team won second place in the choral speaking competition! I was so thrilled! I remember when the judge announced us as the first runner-up, we were all excited and weren't expecting it. We were so happy that we squealed and shouted hurray.

During the countless hours of practice, I've learnt that patience, team spirit and hard work are the keys to success. Most importantly, I must thank the teachers, Ms Leung, Ms Chan and Ms Hon, who trained us no matter how much time it took to let us achieve second place!

– **Celine Chan 5A**

Thoughts and Feelings After the Competition



I still can't believe we won second place in the competition! When the judge announced that we got second place, I was shocked and moved. We practised almost every day, for hours on end, and finally, our hard work paid off. I was so proud at that moment that I almost cried tears of happiness. We worked tirelessly for this, and that day was the culmination of our efforts.

I was truly proud of every single teammate in the choral speaking team. I learned the importance of teamwork throughout our choral speaking lessons. We practised, communicated, and expressed ourselves together. We faced punishments together, waited for each other, and without our teamwork, we wouldn't have achieved second place. The poem wouldn't have turned out as good without our collective effort.

I also want to express my gratitude to our teachers, Ms Chan and Ms Leung. Without them, the poem wouldn't be as exceptional as it is now. The poem wouldn't have come to life without Ms Chan's insightful interpretation, meticulous annotation, and teaching us how to deliver it. She added depth and meaning to each line, making it a truly magical choo choo experience. Ms Leung assigned me the task of listening and marking the class's recitation of the poem every day. Although I initially misunderstood and embarrassed myself, Ms Leung still gave me opportunities to improve.

I am also grateful for the chance to portray the tramp, a character in the poem. Both teachers were kind and supportive, always acknowledging my efforts. Their encouragement fuelled my passion for choral speaking and made me realise that it can be enjoyable, even with hours of practice.

We made it! I hope to continue contributing to the success of our school and earning more accolades. Let's keep fighting next year!

– Rasha Fok 6C

Thoughts and Feelings After the Competition



I think this was an educational and interesting experience because I got to learn different skills for choral speaking. I also got to experience a competition which was a bit nerve-racking. The competition gave me greater competitiveness and it created more productivity and better quality of speaking. I hope to come up against this amazing opportunity again. I also want to thank the teachers for their hard work and support for us.

– **Andrea Ki 5B**

Our team has been working tirelessly every single day to prepare for the competition. Even though we were all tired, and maybe wanted to give up at some point, we all pushed through. I'm very proud of all of us for working so hard. On our big day, we were very nervous and felt like we weren't going to win watching the other performers from other schools. But yet we succeeded all because nobody gave up and we were working together as a team. I think we all did amazingly well in the contest.

This experience has made my English skills improve greatly and made me be more confident while speaking. But us winning second place wouldn't have been possible without the help of our teachers, Ms Tsang, Miss Chan and Miss Leung. I really appreciate their help throughout these few months and how they gave us advice on how to do better. Also, I hope we can all go to other competitions as a group in the near or distant future. Thank you.

– **Talia Tsang 5C**



Choral speaking is one of my favourite activities at school, and I have always hoped to join since I was P4. This year, I finally got the chance to participate in it! My friends and I practised almost every day in order to achieve good results. On the day of competition, we were quite nervous to perform in front of a large audience. The butterflies in my stomach were fluttering as I stepped carefully on stage. My legs trembled. But as everybody started to speak, they gave me a boost of confidence and I joined in. We spoke fluently, without any hesitation or problem. The judges grinned as we put an end to our performance, while Ms Chan, Ms Leung, and Ms Hon clapped as loudly as they could. We were so excited for the result, and when we heard it, all of us screamed with delight. As the saying goes, 'Practise makes perfect.' Since we practised a lot, we earned the second prize so we're really, really happy and proud of ourselves. I am also very grateful for the teachers' help and support! Thank you!

– **Evelyn Lam 6A**

Thoughts and Feelings after the Competition

I was so happy when the adjudicator announced the winners, I couldn't believe that we won second place which is a really good result! I jumped from excitement and so did the others. We screamed in happiness, our teachers, Ms Leung and Ms Chan also smiled in joy, everyone was smiling and overjoyed.

I think that all of the work was worth the time and effort, even when everyone was really tired and exhausted from practicing, everyone kept on working hard and was eager to succeed on getting good results. It was really tiring, how we had to memorise the whole poem in a few days, how we had to do the actions again and again, how we had to stay in school and practise for hours. However, everything we have gone through was worth everything.

When it was the special day where we shine brighter than a diamond, I unluckily got a sore throat and was still recovering from it, I didn't let it stop me from doing my best. I drank lots of water before the performance and tried talking to myself quietly when the other schools were performing. When we got on stage, my voice had miraculously recovered for a few minutes so I used the time to shine. There were a few seconds when I couldn't speak so I kept smiling and lip synced, no one noticed my lip syncing but it was really scaring when I couldn't speak.

I would like to thank all of the teachers and even other students who supported our choral speaking team, I would like to mainly thank Ms Chan and Ms Leung for the support and encouragement. They worked very hard to guide us through the process of getting good results. I am really grateful that they are here to help us and I'm sure that the other amazing choral speaking team members are as well! This was a great opportunity! Thank you so much for everything!

– **Aria Hung 6A**



When I knew we had won second place in the choral speaking competition, I was proud of our team. We had put in so much effort before, and I think that all the time we used for practicing was worth it. I learned that teamwork is important for a successful performance since we had to blend our voices together. I also want to thank all the teachers' support in developing our teamwork skills.

– **Kenise Hui 6C**

I am owed to be chosen to participate in the English Choral Speaking Team. I have learnt numerous speaking techniques and unique facial expressions which are used during choral speaking. It was absolutely fun practising with the whole team. Our hard work really paid off since we were proudly awarded a first runner-up. Last but no least, I want to thank all teachers and teammates who helped and supported our team all along. It has been a wonderful and precious journey!

– **Vienna Wu 6B**

Thoughts and Feelings After the Competition

“Congratulations! The first runner-up goes to St. Paul’s Primary Catholic School!” When we heard that we got second place, I felt that the countless hours of practice and our efforts had paid off. Throughout the practice, we all improved our teamwork, and we all did our best to finish the performance, trying to execute all the actions as neatly as we could.

Also, I would like to thank our best teachers, Ms Chan and Ms Leung. They put in a lot of effort to think of the actions and the tone to speak. They also provided us with a lot of advice to help us improve our skills.

Thank you!

– Venus Tsang 6B

When the judge had announced the first runner-up was our school, I felt shocked and ecstatic. I would have never known that among all of the schools participating, we would’ve gotten second place.

We couldn’t have done it without everyone who had participated cooperated. Words can’t describe how thankful I am for all our awesome teachers for their support throughout the months of practice. They improved us a ton!

After the numerous hours of rehearsals, I have not only learned to speak louder, but I also learned to have good posture. I now usually have better posture, as I was so used to it.

– Claire Fung 6C



Winning the second place in choral speaking fills me with a sense of accomplishment and pride. It’s a recognition of the effort and passion we poured into perfecting our performance. I am grateful for the guidance and dedication of my teachers who believed in us and pushed us to achieve our best.

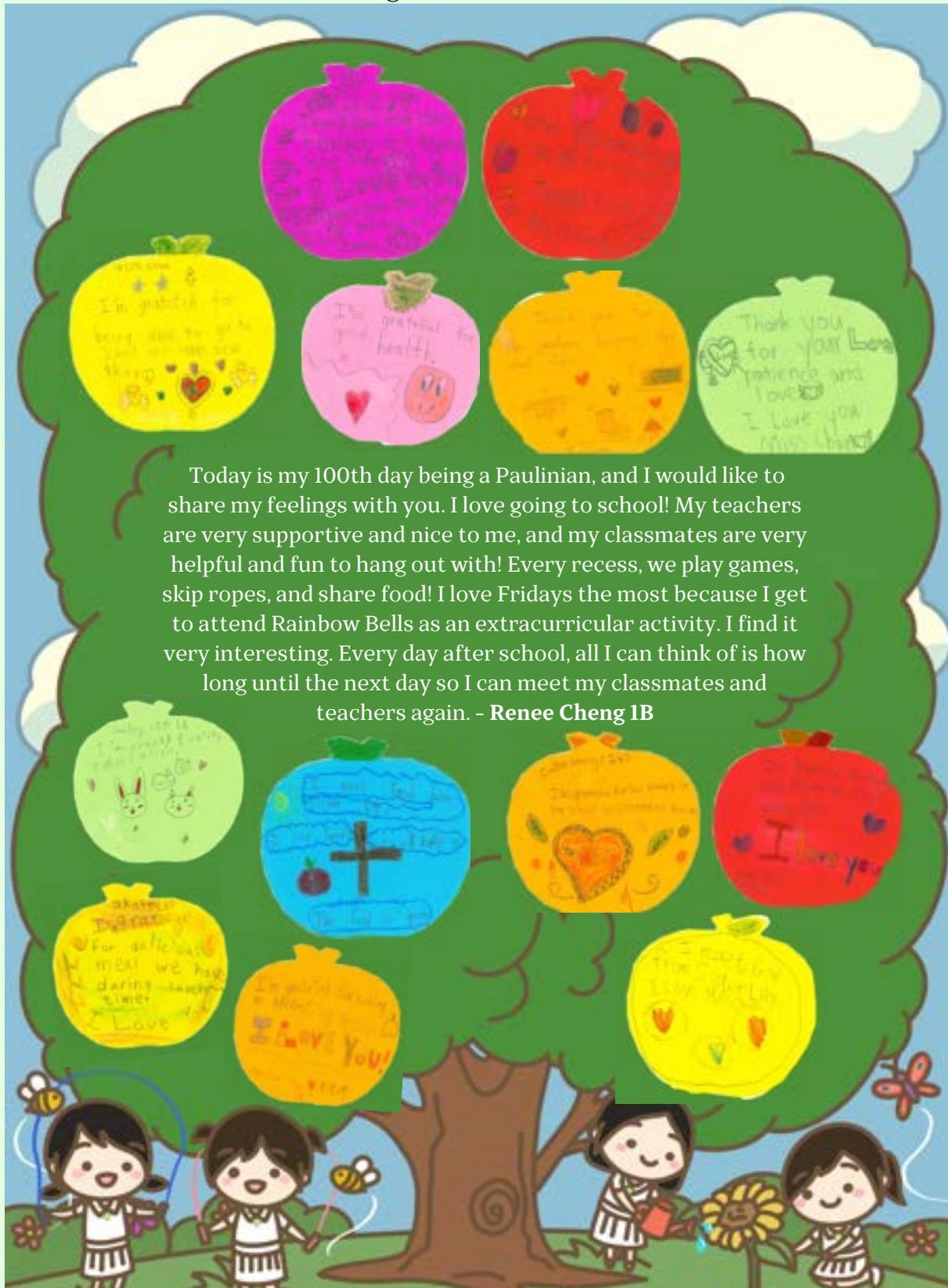
– Andrea So 6D

I’m very glad that we achieved the second place in the choral speaking competition because it’s my first time to join it. I am also very grateful to our teacher Ms Leung, Ms Chan and Ms Hon. I’m grateful for everything they taught us and the energy they put into us.

– Martha Lee 6A

P1 100th Day Celebration

December 9, 2023 marks the 100th day of our primary 1 attending school. They wrote their gratitudes on paper apples and hung them on the tree in English Wonderland.



P2 Master Chef Junior



Primary two students showed off their cooking skills at the Master Chef Junior held in December and January. The students had been learning about food and it was just right to have them show everyone what healthy food they could make.

The students were tasked with creating their original sandwich recipes.

All ingredients graced this awesome sandwich making event. Jam. Bread. Eggs. Ham. Pickles. The students had a lot of fun and they enjoyed their delicious creation!



‘It was an amazing sight to watch them confidently and creatively make their sandwiches using their recipes.’ – **Miss Esther**



P3 A Date with Sports Stars

This event featured an inspiring sharing session by football athletes Okpe Artem and Tita Celistanus, where P3 students had the opportunity to learn about the life of athletes.



The athletes shared their experiences, highlighting the challenges they face and the dedication required to excel in football. They also provided valuable insights on how to pursue a career in athletics, and safety guidelines for students, ensuring that they understood the importance of proper precautions while engaging in physical activities.



To conclude the event, the students eagerly participated in a football session, where they learned the basic skills of the game, fostering their passion for sports and encouraging an active lifestyle.

P4 Language Lab

P4 students immersed themselves in the captivating world of a detective story. They were fully engaged in a stimulating, hands-on activity that involved creating their own puppets.



On January 10th, 2024, instructors of *Teacup Productions* came during English class to conduct a remarkable lesson—*The Curious Case of a Missing Puppet*.

First, we read an impressive and compelling book. Then, we did a worksheet of which activity we liked the most. After that, we made a puppet out of a thin scarf, five beads and three strings. It sounded complicated to me, but I found out that it wasn't as gruelling as I thought.

I learnt a lot of vocabulary with our guests. I also made a scarf puppet by myself, which is something I longed to have and make. I had a prime lesson. I was happy as a pig in muck after the lesson. I also felt very pleased. I am looking forward to having another lesson like that again.

— Nikki Ng 4B



P5 A Skit About Good Manners

P5 girls have recently written skits about manners around the world.



During this experience, I learned some new writing techniques, like script writing. My speaking skills have also improved drastically. I can now speak clearly and loudly. – **Talia Tsang 5C**

In my opinion, this would be suitable for P5 students in the future. I think this experience will boost their confidence while speaking and acting. I hope we will get to do this another time in the future. I enjoyed this experience a lot. – **Andrea Ki 5B**

P6 Box of Hope

This year witnessed a remarkable surge in the number of Christmas gift requests for children from charities. In anticipation of this, our Hong Kong community, *Box of Hope*, united with our school's generous donations to grant the experience of receiving a gift to 41,033 children during this festive period.

Our gifts reached children in Hong Kong, Cambodia, The Philippines, and Pakistan, shedding light on the daily struggles faced by low-income, marginalized, and impoverished families.

We take immense pride in our support, as we share moments of happiness and bring smiles to these children through our gifts. Our goal of inspiring Paulinians to support other less fortunate children has been achieved, and we would like to thank all the teachers and students involved in this charitable endeavour.



P6 girls transformed their unused shoe boxes into stunning gift boxes. They upcycled these boxes, filled them with cherished stationery, and generously and selflessly shared what they loved and owned with children in need.

P6 Language Camp at SPSS

On December 9, 2023, our primary 6 students attended the Wizard Tournament at St. Paul's Secondary School. They got to know more about our secondary school and challenged their English abilities.



We had the opportunity to revise different writing skills in the booths, for instance, hyperboles, puns, alliteration, and so on. We made up house names with alliteration, which gave me a better understanding of it. We also improved more synonyms. All of us were divided into groups, which was great as it let us experience and practise teamwork. I enjoyed that they used Hogwarts as the theme of the event, bringing the experience to a whole new level!

– Claire Fung 6C

The secondary school students were friendly and treated us as if we were their friends and little sisters. They helped us when we did not know what to do, making us feel welcome! I cannot thank them and their teachers who arranged this event enough! Knowing that in a few months, I will be in a new start in this amazing secondary school. With materials that are more advanced and without the teachers I am used to seeing, this adventure will bring me a lot of worries and anxiousness. However, getting to walk down the hall to the booth destinations with the company of the big sisters made me feel more secure and relieved, being a part of the St. Paul's family!



BIG SIS TO LIL SIS

As the semester continues and students faces more challenges, here are some encouragements and tips from our big sisters to our little sisters.

Dear younger students,
I hope you aren't struggling with school. If you are, it's okay you can just ask your parents or teachers. Study hard! You can pass your tests with flying colours. Just spend 30 minutes to 2 hours every day, more than that you will be very tired and can't concentrate any more. I hope you can chase your dreams.

~ Abby Wong 5C

I suggest that younger students should focus on developing strong study habits and time management skills. They can take advantage of resources such as tutoring or study groups to enhance their understanding of challenging subjects. Furthermore, participating in activities that relate to their interests can help them develop skills and enhance their overall learning experience.

~ Charmaine Ko 6C

I know school is tough, homework, tests and everything is difficult, but don't worry, you are not alone! If you are struggling to do homework, try to ask your other older siblings, parents or teachers! They will help you with your study, don't worry about the tests, try as hard as you can! We will always support you!

Lastly, please don't be shy to answer any questions from teachers! Most of the students are too shy, it's all fine! We all experienced this situation. It's a good thing to question and answer, it will help with your studies too! Go for it!

~ Rasha Fok 6C

I wonder if you are struggling with your new school life. You might be thinking that school is exhausting and difficult, but I think that all of these struggles will be worth it at the end. Jotting down notes can really help with studying, and can change the way you study. Try to think of ways to study, like flash cards or so. Don't just stare at your book and memorise everything. You can also relax sometimes. Don't push yourself too much! I believe in you!

~ Charlotte Chan 6D

English Fun Day

Our school is dedicated to preparing our students to become global citizens by providing them with opportunities to broaden their worldview and participate in mutual exchange and cultural appreciation.



This year, our theme was Cultural Appreciation, where students got the chance to explore and discover meaningful ways to honor diverse cultures in an engaging manner. Students had a taste of African dance with Ms Esther,

and visited various game booths including, Hook a Travelling Duck, Festive Tic-Tac-Toe, famous Dishes and Animals Around the World, Pictionary, Hit the Stars, Basketball True or False, and Giant Flag Jenga, etc.



English Fun Day



‘The rainbow parachute activity brings back nostalgic memories from my time in primary school in the UK. I am so happy to introduce this on English Fun Day. The beauty of this activity was that language barriers were irrelevant, as everyone could participate. Students from different year groups collaborated as a team to form different shapes with the colourful parachute. We also had the opportunity to practice our English skills while following instructions, discussing colours, and more. It was an incredible way to celebrate diverse cultures together!’ – **Ms Marie**



In addition to the game stalls in the covered playground and the outdoor rainbow parachute, we also incorporated in-classroom activities that made use of technology and specially designed online games. These games were created by our teachers and offered interactive experiences such as exploring cuisines from around the world and participating in country-specific Q&As. All students were provided with iPads, allowing them to actively participate by simply scanning the QR code provided. This seamless process ensured that every student could engage and enjoy these interactive learning experiences based on their interests.

Travel Logs

My trip to New Zealand By Isabel Ho 6A

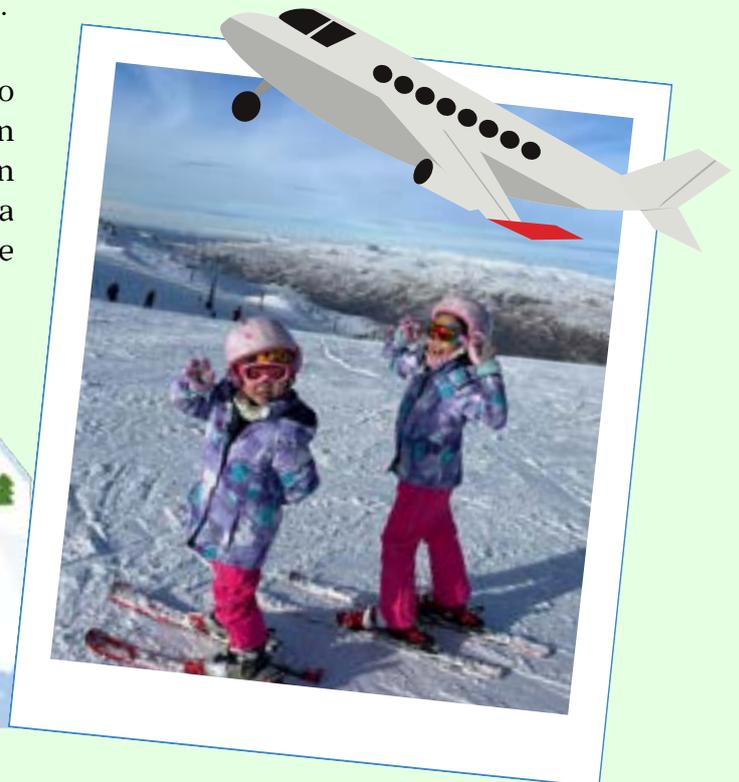
In August 2023, I embarked on an incredible trip to New Zealand for my birthday. It all began on August 2nd when we boarded the airplane for 16 seemingly endless hours. Sleep was elusive on the plane due to occasional turbulence, so I occupied myself by watching TV. We arrived in Auckland after the tedious long haul flight, but that was not it. We had to endure another 2-hour flight as Auckland was not our final destination. A fair amount of transit was involved. Eventually, at midnight, we landed at our primary destination, New Zealand. Exhausted, I promptly fell asleep in the hotel after taking a nice hot bath.

The next day, I woke up with exhilaration because it was finally time to ski! It had been two years since I last had the opportunity due to the pandemic. My family and I took the ski lift to the mountaintop. It felt as if I were the wind soaring through the sky!

Suddenly, it started snowing. I was captivated by the delicate snowflakes. Never before in my entire life had I witnessed such beauty. After marvelling at the breathtaking view, we continued skiing. I skied down the mountain, hunger struck. My family and I entered a restaurant, and ordered some delicious food which turned out to be a terrific meal.

Post-meal, we ventured to another ski trail. My mother warned me that this particular mountain was challenging, so I needed to be cautious. As we began our descent, I noticed a few jumps along the way, but unsure of how to tackle them, I skied alongside. Soon, we completed the trail in just a few minutes and proceeded to the next one. Time flew by, and before we knew it, it was already midnight. My legs were numb, so we sought respite in a warm and cozy dinner. Feeling relaxed, I retired to our hotel room after dinner, taking a refreshing shower before drifting off to sleep.

On the second day, my parents decided to enroll me in a five-day ski school. Upon arrival, I met my instructor. Our first lesson took place on the easiest ski trail. It was a delightful experience skiing and I met some new friends. TBC.



Travel Logs



My trip to Singapore By Cheryl Wong 3A

In summer, my parents and I went to Singapore during school holiday. It was a perfect holiday.

We went for five days. On day 1, we went to the hotel, I was excited. But, it was rainy. On day 2, we went to the zoo. In the zoo, my favourite animals are leopards and white tigers. On the next day, we took photos with a dolphin in Dolphin Island. The dolphin in Dolphin Island is cute and friendly. Its skin is smooth. On day 4, we went to Sea Aquarium and bought a sting ray plushie.

Finally, we returned home in Hong Kong on day 5. We are going to Japan next!

I went to Ocean Park during Christmas. I didn't travel anywhere outside of Hong Kong like my classmates did. I went there with my brother and my parents. I rode on one roller coaster. It was boring because I am not tall enough to go on most of the rides. So the best part was eating. Still, I will go to Ocean Park again because I will grow taller and I can get on those rides soon!

~ Natalie Chong 1A



I went to Osaka with my family for Christmas holiday. I visited Universal Studios Japan and went on a lot of different rides. My favourite is The Jaws Ride. It was very fun and I wish to go again in summer with better weather!

~ Caitlin Wong 1A



My parents and I have just come back from Singapore. We went there for three days. I was so excited about this trip because it was my first time travelling to Singapore.

On first day, we went to a theme park. There were many people. I went on thrilling rides. The roller coaster rides were hair-raising. It was fun.

The next day, we went on a boat trip on the Singapore River. After that, we had a lunch. We ate beef satay, Hainanese chicken rice, and curry crab. The food there was incredible!

On the last day, we went to a zoo to watch a parrot show. There is a variety of rare birds. They look stunning! At last, we went to the souvenir shop to buy a gift. It was the best trip of the year! I hope I can visit Singapore again.

~ Jasmine Lam 5A

My Dreamed up Exchange in England

By Bethanie Tse 6B

I joined a tour to London – one of the most famous cities with beautifully spoken accent in Britain. Since it was a city with a lot of things to explore, I visited it for seven days, 13th March to 29th March. I went there two years ago and stayed with my host family. This tour was called ‘Study Tour to one of the biggest cities in the world – London, for students aged 9-13 years old. London city is famous for Cockney, which means London accent so I went there to learn the accent of London English.

For the first few days, I went sightseeing. I visited the Bethnal Green Library – the most beautiful library with grand halls and splendid decorations. Not only that, Bethnal Green Library contains lots of books for tourists and citizens for all ages. Next, I went on a tour to Edwards Language School. The teachers taught students English and encouraged them to pursue their dreams. They welcomed me warmly and I attended to some of the lessons and what I learned was something so informative and full of feelings that you can’t get from books or the Internet. Then, I went to Platform Nine-and-three-quarters at King’s Cross station. This is the exact station where Harry Potter and his friends went on the red and black express and departed to their boarding school. At last, I went to Buckingham Palace and it was magnificent. I was scared to speak to the guards guarding the palace though I figured they would not answer even if I did. I took a few photos of the guards and Buckingham Palace from a safe distance before going in. The place was exactly what I expected and so much more! There were so many rooms I nearly got lost!

For the coming days, I visited Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and I watched ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’, one of the most famous plays, and ‘Romeo and Juliet’, which is about a depressing love story between the two. Later, I went on the streets and celebrated St Patrick’s Day with London citizens.

There were colourful banners and lots of people parading and celebrating the festival. You should have seen the celebration on television! It was one of the best celebrations ever!

If I went on a tour, any tours, the last thing I’m going to forget was food, like pie and mash, and scotch egg. But the one I love most is fish and chips. There were fish and chips in Hong Kong too but in London, the dish was much tastier with flavours of the city.

I love this study tour because of the beautiful views, historical attractions and delicious foods. Mostly, it is because I learnt London accent, met tons of brilliant people and wonderful friends who gave me useful tips to communicate efficiently in English.



I love travelling to different cities but I have never been to London before this study tour. I love London for everything. This place contains the people, their language, their tradition, their accents... So far, London is the best city I’ve ever visited, but for you, you can choose different study tours to different places. After all, we are different and are interested in different things. Lastly, I hope every one of you can have this wonderful experience of going on a study tour.

My Oxford Exchange before COVID

By Ms Sharon Chan

As I read Bethanie's submission, I can't help but recount my own unforgettable month in Oxford, immersing myself in academia, cultural experiences, and the enchanting atmosphere of the beautiful, historic city at the University of Oxford.

In the summer of 2019, I embarked on a humble adventure at Worcester College. The exchange program offered a comprehensive exploration of English novels, spanning from the works of Jane Austen to contemporary author Zadie Smith. I went on field trips that provided a deeper understanding of the social, historical, and geographic contexts surrounding the literary masterpieces I was studying as an English Major.

Every morning, I attended lectures, explored the contextual differences between literary gems, and engaged in lively class discussions where we dissected themes, analysed writing styles, and gained a profound appreciation for the power of storytelling.

Beyond the classroom, my classmates and I visited locations closely associated with the authors and their works. We ventured to Jane Austen's Bath, immersing ourselves in the ambiance that once inspired her timeless novels. We also visited Emily Brontë's home in Yorkshire. It was freezing cold even in August, and the bleak, gloomy, and humid weather perfectly matched the descriptions in 'Wuthering Heights,' with the rugged moors serving as the haunting backdrop to her masterpiece. Our journey continued to London, where we wandered through the neighbourhoods that Virginia Woolf brought to life in her work; and we visited Blenheim Palace, allowing us to step into the world of Kazuo Ishiguro's 'Remains of the Day' and uncovering the grandeur and history that shaped the narrative.



Throughout my month-long stay, I fully immersed myself in the vibrant Oxford atmosphere. Punting on the River Cherwell remains one of my fondest memories, gliding through the serene waters while admiring the picturesque surroundings. I had the privilege of experiencing a high table dinner at Worcester College and exploring the Harry Potter sites, including Christ Church and the Bodleian Library, which transported me to the magical world created by J.K. Rowling.

My Oxford summer exchange in 2019 was a transformative experience that exceeded all expectations. It left an indelible mark on my personal and intellectual growth. Oxford will forever hold a special place in my heart, reminding me of my young and wild, unforgettable summer. If you get a chance to participate in any exchange programs, seize it with both hands!

The Day I Turned into an Animal #2

By Bella Lee 4A

(Part 1, I turned into a parrot. I went to my sister for help, but she shoved me into her closet...)

Then, my sister sneaked into the closet and whispered, 'There is a hunt for parrots. I'm afraid you will be hunted!'

I was shocked. *How horrible! My sister promised to keep me safe, and that she would give me food every day and sneak in to play with me.* I panicked.



'Please just give me food, I'm scared... What if people outside see you and think it's suspicious?' I said as I trembled. My sister held my tiny wings and nodded her head.

Days passed, but the hunt hadn't ended. Suddenly, my sister rushed into the room with a girl wearing an elegant white silk dress. She had beautiful blonde hair and breathtaking ocean blue eyes. The girl walked towards me and said softly, 'I'm Gianna, I can turn you back into a human.'

Gianna lifted up her bangs, revealing a mark on her forehead—almost like Harry Potter's scar, but hers was a little white star. White liquid started trickling down from the mark. She collected the magical liquid with her hand and gently patted it on my forehead. Her mark started to glow brightly as she started chanting. I closed my eyes. The light blinded me for a second!

In the blink of an eye, I was back to normal. No more wings, no more feathers. I was human again, but my forehead had the same mark as Gianna's.

'The mark allows you to perform magic. Just focus on what you want to do with the magic. It glows when you are using it!' Gianna said.

I was so happy that tears kept rolling down my cheeks. A smile grew on my sister's face, but then she frowned.

'Ten thousand dollars... Why did I call her for help? The others charge only a hundred dollars!' She sighed and slapped her face.

Well. I owe you big time, sis!

People We Admire

By Zita Chan 6B

I recently read a book *Who Was Mother Teresa*. It is written by Jim Gigliotti. This book explores Mother Teresa's spiritual life.

One of the most unforgettable aspects that I want to discuss is the misconception that some people had, suggesting that Mother Teresa's devotion to the poor was merely a means to convert them to Catholicism. However, she never attempted to convert people to her religion. Instead, she would often say, 'I convert you to become a better Hindu, a better Catholic, a better Muslim, or Buddhist.' Mother Teresa believed that people of all faiths were praying to the same God.

In the 1980s, Mother Teresa's health began to decline. She experienced numerous heart attacks and contracted diseases such as malaria and pneumonia. Despite doctors advising her to rest, she reasoned, 'I have all eternity to rest.' She continued her work until March 1997. On September 5, 1997, while working in Calcutta, Mother Teresa passed away at the age of eighty-seven. In 2003, she was beatified by the Catholic Church, and in 2016, she was canonized—declared a saint—by the Roman Catholic Church.

Reading this book connected me to our daily lives. In our daily encounters, we may hesitate when we see people in need, particularly those who are impoverished. However, in this book, Mother Teresa encountered a woman lying in the middle of the street, with rats having eaten away part of her flesh. Mother Teresa immediately took her to the hospital without any hesitation. I felt ashamed of those who hesitated after witnessing Mother Teresa's swift response.

From this book, I have learned the importance of having a selfless and loving heart for others, relying on God, and believing in God at all times. I highly recommend this book to you. I admire Mother Teresa so much more after reading her life story.



Buses Versus Trains (MTR)

By Leah Leung 5A

When it comes to choosing transportation options for travel, many people opt for MTR trains. There are several reasons why MTR trains are preferred, as they are safe, fast, and convenient. However, there are compelling arguments for considering buses as an alternative.

Using MTR trains can often be an unpleasant experience. With most train tracks located underground, it takes a significant amount of time to reach the platform and board the train. In some cases, you may need to transfer at an interchange station to reach your final destination, which can lead to crowded conditions and delays. Overall, the entire experience can be displeasing.

On the other hand, buses have an advantage with their availability on main streets, often with several bus stops near your home. They offer convenient routes that can take you to various parts of Hong Kong, providing an almost door-to-door transportation solution.



The interior space of an MTR train compartment is primarily designed for standing, with only a few seats available. This means that you may have to stand for the entire journey. Additionally, the monotony of traveling on MTR trains, mostly underground, offers little to see through the windows other than your own reflection. In contrast, most buses provide ample seating, making it easy to find a seat during your journey. Furthermore, you can enjoy the view outside the window while traveling on a bus.



Lastly, an essential consideration is the unfortunate event of a breakdown. If an MTR train breaks down in the tunnel between stations, you will either be stuck in the middle of the tunnel or forced to walk to the nearest station in the dark, which can be frightening and dangerous. However, if your bus is to break down, you can simply board another one. Thus, if you are seeking transportation for travel, buses should be seriously considered as they offer a safer and more convenient alternative.

My First Time Going to School

By Alisa So 6A

I remember the day vividly when I embarked on my very first journey to school. The morning was filled with a mix of anticipation and nervousness as I put on my brand-new school uniform and packed my backpack with all the necessary supplies. My parents, with smiles on their faces, assured me that it would be a day of exciting adventures and new friendships.

As we approached the school gates, my heart started to beat faster. The hallways echoed with the chatter of children, and the classrooms were bright and inviting. I was led to my classroom, where I found a seat among a group of unfamiliar faces. The teachers introduced themselves and made us feel at ease. They explained the daily routine, from the subjects we would be studying to the fun activities we would be engaged in. The teachers' reassuring words and friendly demeanours instantly made me feel more comfortable in this new environment.

As the day progressed, I found myself immersed in various activities. We sang songs, listened to stories, and played educational games. I quickly realised that school was not just about textbooks and exams; it was a place where I could explore my interests, express my thoughts, and interact with other curious minds.



Throughout the day, I made new friends who shared in my excitement and apprehensions. We exchanged smiles, stories, and laughter, forming the foundation of friendships that would last for years to come. As the final bell rang, signaling the end of my first day at school, I walked out with a sense of accomplishment and a hunger for more knowledge. The day had exceeded my expectations, and I realised that school was not something to be feared, but to be enjoyed.

Going to school for the first time was a significant milestone in my life, marking the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning, growth, and discovery. I am grateful for the experiences and I look forward to more opportunities.

For a Greener Future

By Vienna Wu 6B

Do you know how serious pollution has become on our planet? For example, global warming has caused temperatures worldwide to reach unprecedented levels. Consequently, birds that thrive in colder climates, such as Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Bohemian Waxwings, are forced to migrate elsewhere for rest. As a result, we observe a decline in bird population at the Wetland Park. Additionally, constant exposure to polluted air can lead to heart diseases and lung cancer.

As individuals, we have the power to make a significant difference in alleviating this problem. We should strive to reduce the pollution levels, allowing the air to become fresher. The 4Rs—**reduce, replace, reuse, and recycle**—can guide our efforts.

To reduce, we can minimise the use of plastic bags and decrease deforestation. Switching to reusable bags helps reduce plastic waste, resulting in fewer toxins released into the environment. Trees play a vital role in nature, producing nutrients and oxygen through photosynthesis. Therefore, we can limit paper usage to prevent excessive tree cutting and maximise paper usage by utilising both sides.

For replacement, we can opt for fans instead of air conditioners. This simple change helps reduce the release of pollutants. Additionally, using public transport whenever possible instead of private cars reduces the emission of harmful gases.

Recycling involves placing used newspapers, cans, and bottles into designated recycling bins. By doing so, we reduce the amount of waste in landfills, preventing them from quickly filling up and contributing to unpleasant odors. This practice also promotes fresher air.

Reusing items, such as second-hand clothes, is another effective approach. Even if we do not have siblings, we can donate these items to those in need. Donating shoes and books to charities ensures that they reach the poor and orphans, preventing wastage.

If each of us takes a small step and contributes to the protection of our environment, I firmly believe that our Earth will become even more beautiful in the near future!



Calling for Submissions

Dear Paulinians,

I hope this message finds you well and full of creative inspirations. Thank you for reading till the very end of this newsletter as well.

I am delighted to announce that we are continuing accepting submissions for our end of term Issue III. This is your last chance in this academic year to hone your writing skills one on one with me, and share your unique perspectives to the entire school community.

Let your imagination soar as you craft your words and bring your ideas to life through the power of writing. Submission ideas:

- Poems
- Book reviews
- Opinion pieces
- Travel experiences
- Creative fiction/ non-fiction
- Environmental and social issues

Submitting your work is simple. Please send your written pieces as attachments to scchan@sppcs.edu.hk anytime. Remember to include your full name and class in the email so I can find you at school for comments and editing. If you have multiple submissions, feel free to send them all!

Best regards,

Ms Sharon Chan
Editor-in-Chief, Paulinian Post

