



## GENERAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

### Mid-Autumn Celebrations

Children, parents and staff all had amazing fun, both in the lead up to the celebration and during the evening at Ma On Shan Park. We have to congratulate our Parent Staff Association for all their hard work and for the amount of time they spent in school making Mooncakes. The school staff was treated to a Mooncake making experience where Shirley Yip demonstrated the process and everyone then had the chance to make their own. This was a very sociable event and showed the depth of respect and collaboration which now exists in our school between staff and parents.

The Mid-Autumn celebration itself was highly successful and received a huge amount of positive feedback from parents and extended families. The children were treated to fruit which had been purchased and prepared by the parents from the PSA and many people enjoyed the Mooncakes which were distributed throughout the crowd. The children were also given the Mooncake which they had made individually in school, beautifully wrapped with their name displayed on it. Parents were also able to admire the big lantern which most children helped to create in school under the watchful eye of Ms Hulme.

The lantern parade gave the children the chance to show off the work they had been doing in classes and for them it must have been a magical experience, walking with their friends and family through the darkness with their own handiwork on display.

We cannot thank the parents of the PSA enough for making all of this possible. They generously gave of their time and energy to make this event so spectacular and meaningful for our children.

### Recent Visitors

We recently welcomed Belinda Greer ( CEO of ESF) and Abraham Shek (Chairperson) to our school. Although the visit was short, we were able to discuss and showcase many of the initiatives, aspects of practice and learning experiences we have implemented. They chatted with children, staff and parents from the PSA who kindly presented them with our school-made Mooncakes. They were very impressed by what they saw and by the strong sense of community evident in our environment. Both were complimentary whilst here and subsequently in an event attended by members of the Hong Kong media, raising the profile of our school beyond our immediate neighbourhood.

We also had a visit from Ellen Booth Church who is an acclaimed author and is recognised worldwide as being an expert in childhood education. She highly praised the learning opportunities she saw during her visit and particularly commented upon the high engagement of the children in these learning through play activities.

### Welcome back to Jeanine

We were delighted to welcome back our Mandarin teacher Jeanine Wong following her maternity leave. She has a son, Alexander (Pak Long), who has already developed an interest in books! Congratulations to Jeanine and Vince.





### **School photographs**

Techni Photo will be visiting the school on the 27th - 28th October to take photographs of individual children and all classes. Further information will be sent to parents soon with details of prices.

### **Therapy Services Update**

We had 117 children screened by AlphaHearing . Recommendations were made in some cases for immediate action to be taken as hearing was being impaired due to infection or wax blockages. This has an obvious impact on the child's learning and it is so beneficial to have it identified and treated promptly. Some children were recommended to have a further assessment in 6 months time whilst most were given the all clear.

Our Speech and Language Therapist screened 65 K1 children and reports were sent out to all those parents. Rachel Diment is a skilled and knowledgeable professional who works closely with class teachers and the Support for Learning Coordinator to identify development needs and next steps in regard to language and social communication skills.

Our Occupational Therapist, Lucy Bray, screened 64 children, identifying the need for further development in fine and gross motor skills as well as some sensory processing issues. Again, reports were sent to parents highlighting areas to be developed or identifying a need for further assessment, particularly with sensory processing.

These screenings are highly beneficial in helping our staff to ensure the best possible start in a child's learning. They are not kept on file by the school, therefore will not be seen by our primary colleagues at interview time. There is absolutely no disadvantage to any child who has been screened, on the contrary, a screening allows us to rule out or develop specifics and with those professionals working so closely with our school staff, we can ensure your children are reaching their full potential.

### **Terry Fox Run**

RCHK has invited all interested parents to take part in a 3, 5 or 10 km walk/jog/run to raise funds in memory of Terry Fox, a Canadian cancer sufferer, who attempted to run across Canada after having a leg amputated. All money raised will go towards cancer research and it would be good to have our school represented by as many as possible. Further information has already been sent out and t shirts are available for viewing at our front office.

### **K1 Kindergarten Applications Open (for Children born in 2013)**

We are now accepting applications on our website for children born in 2013. Please visit our website and submit an online application for your child if you wish to apply. Applications will be considered late if they are received after October 31st.

### **NEIL GRIFFITHS: STORY-TELLING WORKSHOP**

We are delighted to inform you that famous author and founder of 'Storysacks', Neil Griffiths is coming to Wu Kai Sha Kindergarten on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November to hold a story-telling workshop for parents. Neil is recognized globally as a charismatic and inspiring teacher trainer and has worked with parents and teachers across the world.



Attending the workshop is a great opportunity to learn how you can use stories to help your children develop pre-reading and language skills. We encourage you to attend!

Later this year, we will be developing our own 'Storysacks' and hope to enable parents to book these from our school library for use at home with children.

### WORKSHOP INFORMATION

**Date:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Time:** Workshop begins at 4:30pm-6:00pm

**Venue:** ESF International Kindergarten Wu Kai Sha

**Cost:** HK\$100 per adult

#### Collection of Children at the End of Session

We kindly remind parents to ensure that arrangements are in place for children to be picked up **on time** at the end of each school session (11.30am and 3.30pm). Teachers and EAs take their lunch break at 11.30 and are involved in class meetings at 3.30 therefore we are not able to offer facilities for looking after children. It can also be very upsetting for a child to be left sitting after all other classmates have gone.

## PARENT / STAFF ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### AGM & Marie Marchand Presentation

On 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 we were delighted by the large number of interested parents who attended our Positive Parenting workshop. We had the privilege of hearing from the entertaining Marie Marchand on how to deal with power struggles and how to use positive language with our children. We were all enlightened and empowered by Marie. Instead of reacting in ways that would cause power struggles, Marie showed us how to ease tension and arrive at a win-win situation through providing choices, using humour and improving our questioning techniques. We look forward to hearing more from her.

#### PSA Executive Committee 2015-2016

We would like to thank all those that came to support us on the Annual General Meeting also held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

Here are the members of the PSA Executive Committee 2015-2016:

**Honorary consultant:** Mr. Christopher Coyle

**Chairperson:** Guiovanna Belen Alarcon

**Internal vice-chairperson:** Sheila Forsyth

**Internal secretary:** Ines Topps

**Treasurer:** Fiona Shu

**Staff Members:** Gwenyth Cheng, Fatima Rumjahn,

**Parent Members:**

**Owl AM:** Dorothy Wan

**External vice-chairperson:** Billy Cheng

**External secretary:** Sonia Tjhia



**Owl PM:** Wu Qiaobing, Modi Namrata Sagar, Carol Zhou, Heidi Wu, Ng King Ping, Kennis Chan, Karen Ng

**Peacock AM:** Heidi Chan

**Peacock PM:** Nichol Chau, Sindy Chow, Jeffrey Law

**Eagle AM:** Cheryl Ng, Albert Yeung

**Eagle PM:** Yang Hongxing, Maggie Wong, Josephine Li

**Robin PM:** Pearl Lin

**Magpie AM:** Suzanne Yiu

**Emu AM:** Yang Yang, Pauline Lo,

**Emu PM:** Maggie Ho, Lo Hin Fan, Ada Chan

**Crane AM:** Shirley Yick, Dora Chong, Tan Cheng, Olivia Nip

**Crane PM:** Lillian Chan, Cathy Tang

#### Class Representatives

Knowing the importance of communication between the PSA and all parent members, the following class representatives will act as a bridge for the PSA:

Owl AM: Dorothy Wan

Peacock AM: vacant

Eagle AM: Cheryl Ng

Robin AM: vacant

Magpie AM: Suzanne Yiu

Crane AM: Dora Chong

Emu AM: Pauline Lo

Owl PM: Wu Qiaobing

Peacock PM: Sindy Chow

Eagle PM: Maggie Wong

Robin PM: vacant

Magpie PM: Fiona Shu

Crane PM: Canis Yiu

Emu PM: Ada Chan



*Some of the members of our newly appointed PSA Executive Committee*



If you would like to get in touch with your class representative, please ask Fatima for contact details. We still have vacancies for the position of class representatives in Peacock AM, Robin AM and Robin PM, if you would like to help, please contact Fatima.

**Year Plan of the PSA 2015-2016**

In the coming year, the PSA will be organising or supporting the school in the following events:

1. Mid-Autumn Festival Program
2. Terry Fox Run at Renaissance College on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 (Sat)
3. Christmas Sale at the Renaissance College school fair on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 (Sat)
4. Christmas Sale at our kindergarten in December
5. Chinese New Year Bake Sale + Program
6. Funfair at the Renaissance College on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 (Sat)
7. Sports Day
8. K2 Graduation event
9. Second-hand uniform sale

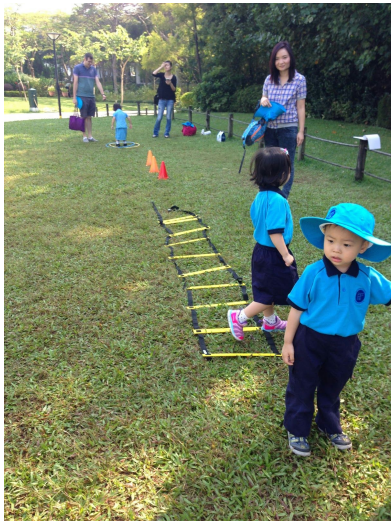
The success of these events will depend on your support and participation. Please feel free to reach out to any PSA committee member if you have any suggestions/ideas about the events. We sincerely hope to see you all in these events.

Guiovanna Belen Alarcon  
Chairperson  
PSA



## OUR K1 TRIP TO MA ON SHAN PARK

Our K1 children had fun in the sun as they joined our planned activities.





## OUR K2 TRIP TO MA ON SHAN PARK

We had beautiful weather and lots of activities for our K2 children to enjoy. Thanks to all the adults who came along to support the children and teachers.





## KEY DATES AND EVENTS

### What are CPD days?

*Continuous Professional Development (CPD) days provide teachers with the opportunity to enhance their professional knowledge and skills with the underlying aim of enriching the learning experiences for their students. CPD days are an important additional responsibility on top of the required teaching days. Two of the five ESF CPD days are centrally agreed. The remaining CPD days are set by individual schools to take place at the most appropriate times to support school development initiatives.*

- Monday, 19 - 25 October: ESF "Half Term Holiday" (School Closed)
- Wednesday, 21 October: Public Holiday (School Closed)
- Monday, 26 October: Term Begins and PARENT WORKSHOP: Neil Griffiths at 5pm
- Wednesday, 28 October: Parent Volunteer Sessions
- Tuesday, 3 November: PARENT WORKSHOP: Outdoor Learning at 5pm
- Tuesday, 10 - 13 November: Outdoor Learning Week
- Tuesday, 17 November: PARENT WORKSHOP: Oral Language at 5pm
- Thursday, 19 November: Shared Learning Day
- Friday, 20 November: CPD (School Closed)
- Saturday, 28 November: RCHK School Fair
- Tuesday, 1 December: PARENT WORKSHOP: Reading development at 5pm
- Monday, 14 December: K1 Christmas Performance and Student Progress Reports
- Tuesday, 15 - 16 December: K2 Christmas Performance
- Thursday, 17 December: Christmas Parties
- Friday, 18 December: Staff Meeting (School Closed)
- Monday, 21 December - 3 January 2016: ESF "Term Holiday" (School Closed)
- Friday, 25 - 26 December: Public Holiday (School Closed)
- Monday, 4 January 2016: Term Begins

## ESF NEWS

### ESF Water Testing

As you may know, over the last few months fresh water sources across Hong Kong have been found to contain significantly high levels of lead. Over the summer, we took samples from freshwater sources in our schools. From over 300 fresh water sources tested, only 4 samples were found to have levels slightly above the HK Government guidelines. KGV, Sha Tin College, South Island School and West Island School each had one sample with levels slightly above the guidelines. All other freshwater sources in these schools were within the guidelines. The health and safety of our children, and our staff, is always our number one priority. In this regard, we





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have taken immediate steps to shut down the four sources whilst action is being taken to ensure levels are within safety standards.