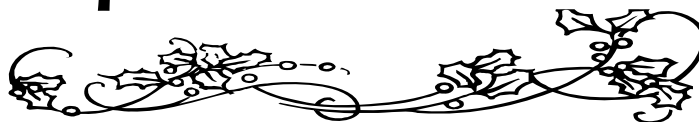


Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon)

Episodes



Feb 07 - Jun 07

Issue 2

Learning Celebrations

On Thursday 8 March Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) had its annual Learning Celebrations. Students, parents, teachers and special guests including Mr. Sham Wai-kin, the Chief Superintendent of Police and District Commander of Mongkok, attended the event. The day was a chance to highlight the importance of learning and to demonstrate the cultural, academic and extra-curricular richness and diversity of the school.

The festivities began with a Kick-off Ceremony in which Mr. Sham acted as the presiding officer at the Passing Out Parade of the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps 601 Squadron — a unit comprised of our school's students. Following this, certificates and awards were presented to students and parents in recognition of their achievements in the Half-yearly exams and other contributions. Prizes were also given to the winners of our Learning Celebrations Slogan Competition. The winning slogan, "We gather knowledge to become the best, just like birds gather straw for their nest" was written by Habibur Rehman of S. 1A.

The audience was then treated to a number of excellent performances. First off was a lively Pop Jazz and Hip Hop dance, followed by a beautiful



traditional Chinese fan dance. Next came an authentic Oriental dance and a musical performance by a student rock band. Following the outdoor ceremonies, guests were welcomed to enjoy refreshments and light snacks, including many traditional ethnic dishes many of which were made by students.

The school hall was the next venue, featuring a host of exhibits which included various clubs, extra-curricular groups, as well as displaying students' work, essays, models, handicrafts and even plants and flowers (grown by students from the Environmental Education Committee). Visitors were treated to a fine sample of some of the clubs and groups that flourish at our school.

In the afternoon, educational activities and games were run by over 20 school clubs, groups, and organizations. These activities allowed students to sample what some of the clubs and organizations were like,

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Learning Celebrations (Continued)

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encouraging students to get more involved with extra-curricular life. The games ranged from making crafts, sampling and creating interesting food, making aromatic candles, language games, knitting bracelets, ball games, traditional hand painting, and other games of skill and chance. Students were given small gifts and prizes after successfully completing a number of the educational activities.

We would like to thank all the

students, parents, teachers and guests for attending and making this Learning Celebrations Day an enjoyable and meaningful experience. Special thanks go out to our special guest speaker Mr. Sham Wai-kin for his speech and words of encouragement. We hope that students continue to work hard to make learning at Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School a thing to celebrate.



Parents' Day

"How well is my child performing in class?"
"Is my child getting along well with his classmates?"
"Is there any room for my child to make further improvement?"
"What can I do if my child disobeys me at home?"
"What subjects are offered in S. 4? Which stream could my child opt for in senior secondary?"

These seemed to be the standard set of questions asked by parents on Parents' Day, and it was hoped that all parents had received a satisfactory answer from their children's teachers. It was to our great delight to see so many parents visiting Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School on its Parents' Day, 14 February 2007. School prefects were stationed on each floor busily ushering parents all the way to the respective homerooms for different classes. Class teachers saw each of the visiting parents to discuss with them their children's performance in class this year and made sure that the parents left without any

unanswered queries in their minds. The report card might earn a word of praise and sense of deep satisfaction for some students, but might also induce realization for others that the need to put in some more hard work was required. That was a wonderful occasion for parents and teachers to get together and discuss the achievement of students to see if there was any room for amelioration and also to re-examine the roles of parents in the nurturing and development of children. Apologies

to those who had to endure the long wait to see the class teachers, but every second was worth its cause.

The day helped foster a better understanding and establish closer ties between parents and the school. On this special day, some parents also took the opportunity to express their deep gratitude to teachers for their dedication to teaching their children. The appreciation of teachers' work from students or parents has not only warmed their hearts but also rekindled their spirit towards their teaching profession!



PTA Outing

The school's Parents-Teachers' Association held its annual outing on 28 April. Students, parents and staff gathered at the school, boarded the buses, and spent a fun filled day at the Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre.

There were a number of interesting activities and facilities at the recreation centre to keep people busy. These ranged from physical activities, hobbies, sports to leisure activities and

crafts. There was no way that anyone could do all of the events, though based on the level of excitement and seemingly endless energy, many of the participants did their best.

In addition to all the events, the students, parents and teachers were treated to a delicious family style lunch, which helped let people mix, mingle and talk with the other members of the PTA and school community.

Congratulations also go out to the winners of the PTA outing photo contest. These keen eyed photographers were able to capture the spirit of the outing very well as we think you will agree when you see their winning photos.



Physical Activities & Sports	Leisure Activities & Hobbies
• Archery	• Arts and crafts
• Badminton	• Billiards
• Basketball	• Bingo
• Mountain / Wall climbing	• Enjoying nature walks
• Roller-skating	• Gateball
• Squash	• Karaoke
• Swimming	• Lucky draws
• Table tennis	• Ropecourse
• Tennis	• Visiting the tuck shop



2nd prize: Mr. Kumar (teacher)



1st prize: Aishwarya Gopalakrishnan (4C)



3rd prize: Louisa Mein Smith (4A)

Parents' Night

On the evening of Friday 4 May, parents were invited to come to school to meet their children's class teachers. From 5 to 6pm, parents went to individual classrooms to get the report sheets of their children's second term tests, and discussed their academic performance and progress with their class teachers and assistant class teachers.

The rest of this Parents' Night was dedicated to 2 interest classes organized by the school's Parents-Teachers'

Association. Before the parents-teachers meetings, from 4 to 5pm in the Student Activity Centre, Mrs Patricia Mein Smith, mother of S.4A student Louisa, taught us how to braid "friendship bracelets" using colourful strings.

Later in the evening, from 6 to 7pm, a Chinese and Southeast Asian food and drink tasting was held in the



school hall. Parents, students and teachers could try Chinese cookies, egg rolls and sweets, Indian samosas, naans, idles (steamed rice cakes) and lassi (a yoghurt-like drink), Pakistani kebabs, as well as Thai desserts. These delicious snacks were a nice treat to end the evening, when everyone was beginning to feel hungry after a day's work.

National Costume Day

On 6 June Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) was a rainbow of colours, fabric and accessories as many students and teachers participated in the National Costume Day. There were a host of nations well represented including China, India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, just to name a few.

In addition to illustrating the cultural diversity and richness which is at the essence of our school, the event also highlighted the generous and caring nature of the school community. Participating students and teachers made donations to the non-profit organization MSF which stands for the French words *Medecin Sans Frontieres* ("Doctors Without Borders"). MSF performs medical services in poor nations around the world and often goes to global trouble spots (often dangerous) where poverty and the need for medical treatment can be found. A total of approximately \$1,900 was raised for this worthwhile cause. You can learn more

about MSF by visiting their website at www.msf.org.

During the day, the students were faced with a difficult decision in terms of deciding which of the many national costumes they thought was deserving of special recognition. When the voting for the Best National Costume Competition was complete, the following students found themselves at the top of the voting results. Congratulations to the winners and to all the other participants.



Special thanks go out to the event organizers as well as all the students and teachers who took part in the day and showed their generosity, national pride and school spirit.



Second Staff Development Day

Gandhi once said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." The teaching staff of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) never cease to learn from others, and they made use of their 2nd Staff Development Day to pay a visit to Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay) on the afternoon of 3 April 2007. After being greeted with a warm welcome in the spectacular Conference Room, the staff were given a guided tour around the school premises to have a look of its specialties and exchange valuable ideas and teaching experience with the

teachers there.

The wonderfully decorated rooms and the corners of each floor were embellished with special features and really broadened the staff's horizons to a great extent. The pictures on the walls and the thematic ornaments in each room would be a great inspiration to students' learning. One would feel like being in an art gallery while walking through a corridor. One would feel like being amidst the sea world while taking a stroll outside the classrooms. One would experience the dream of traveling in space in the Computer Room until they wake up to the reality that they are actually in a computer lesson. One would experience working as a reporter in a studio while reading out a news report on the school channel. Students would never be bored of this school campus because they would be constantly bombarded by artistic elements in the air with each step they take — on the ceiling, on the floor, on the walls, on the staircase, and everywhere around them.



The school campus is indeed a dream school for students. The atmosphere inside is able to rejuvenate everyone with strength and energy. Our staff could have stayed in the school for hours to examine everything in detail but time was a scarcity, although we had already learnt quite a lot from our host. Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay) is really a wonderful school worth visiting and we would like to express our special gratitude to the Headmistress, Ms. CHOI Sook-chun, for her hospitality and giving us a valuable opportunity to visit their school.



Reading Weeks

For the third consecutive year, the Promotion of Reading Committee organized "Reading Weeks" to foster students' reading habit. During the period 7-20 May 2007, a variety of activities, in both English and Chinese, were organized for students of all levels.

The activity taking centre stage was the Readathon, which aimed at developing students' reading habit as well as providing students with an opportunity to engage in more leisure reading and to raise money for the PTA to buy new books for the school library. During the two-week period, 49 students from ten different classes collectively read for a total of 9,679 minutes and raised a commendable \$1,908. A very big thank you to our student participants and to parents, guardians and friends who supported this worthwhile event.

"The Most Widely Read News Competition" was organized to encourage students to read the daily news in English. Headlines and articles were posted on a board and students were asked to vote for the news article they liked the most. The competition generated 56 entries of which there were eight prize-winners. What was the



favourite news article? An article about drug abuse amongst teenagers in Hong Kong.

Another highlight was a talk delivered by an up-and-coming local author Ms. Wong Yin-ping. In the afternoon of 15 May 2007, Chinese students from S1 to S3 enjoyed an engaging and motivating presentation in the school hall. Ms. Wong inspired our students with her captivating words. After the talk, students were able to purchase copies of Ms. Wong's books, which she autographed. These books will provide infinite hours of joy and will be cherished by their owners.

The school library organized an exhibition of newly acquired library books, which many students browsed through. Other activities included book-related film shows; Roald Dahl's "Matilda" and the Chinese classic story "Mulan" inspired students to read the original printed masterpieces.

A newly introduced event was the parent-led reading sessions. Organized by the PTA, two parent volunteers, Mrs.



Mein Smith and Ms. Thompson, conducted three reading sessions: English poetry, "Copoeira" and matching headlines with pictures. The sessions were well-attended and feedback from students was positive. In a small-group situation, students read aloud and were encouraged to work out the meanings of new words in context and to give their views and opinions about the texts.

There is no dispute that reading is the foremost study tool and life tool one can possess. "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." (Dr. Seuss) "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." (Margaret Fuller).

In an ever-changing technological world with the printed words maybe doomed for extinction, let's continue to encourage a reading habit in our students as it will serve them well now and in the years ahead.

Talk on Choice of Subjects for S. 3 Students

Around May every year, S3 students have to make a big decision about their studies: which stream and subjects to take in S4. To help them make this important choice, the School Careers Committee held a talk after school on 8 May.

In the talk, the Principal and Careers Mistress, Ms. Leung Mi-po, gave an overview of the S. 4 curriculum and explained the criteria for streaming. Then, Heads of various Departments introduced subjects that are not taught in S. 1-3 such as Chinese History,



Travel & Tourism, Economics, and Principles of Accounts. A guest-speaker from the Vocational Training Centre supplemented the audience with information about Applied Learning Courses, and several S. 4 students this year shared their experience in learning under this curriculum.

A handbook on subject selection was distributed to the audience. It not only summarized the information mentioned above, but also provided other useful information such as the entrance requirements of some popular subjects at local universities, advice on how to make a sensible decision, and a psychology test to help students assess



their career interests.

The S. 3 students and their parents listened attentively. Some even stayed behind after the talk to ask teachers questions.

The students handed in their subject selection form by 14 May. Their preferences would be processed according to their examination results.

Special Events / Activities

Event / Activity	Committee / Organization	Date	Target Students
Inter-school Basketball Competition (C Grade)	Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation	6, 20/1/2007, 10/2/2007 & 3/3/2007	Basketball Team members (C Grade girls)
“Real Friends” Project with the Hong Kong Police Force Police Community Relations Office Mong Kok Police District (Hiking, Friendly Football Match and Basketball Match cum Closing Ceremony)	Guidance Team and Discipline Team	27/1/2007 - 10/7/2007	All students
Adventure-based Training Day Camp for S.3 students	Guidance Team	29/1/2007 - 30/1/2007	S.3 students
S.1 Sex Education Talk — “The Developing Body”	Health & Sex Education Committee Triumph International (HK) Ltd.	31/1/2007	S.1 girls
Inter-school Athletics Championship	Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation	31/1/2007, 9, 15/2/2007	Athletics Team members
U-Club Activity: Anti-Drug Talk, Drug Exhibition, Hiking and Sport-climbing	Health & Sex Education Committee, Discipline Committee, Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	5/2/2007 - 28/4/2007	All students
“Making Your Fruitful Life” — Support Program for Non-Chinese Speaking and Returnee Children	Guidance Team	5/2/2007 - 30/4/2007	Non-Chinese speaking students
Parents’ Day	Whole School	14/2/2007	All students
Learning Celebrations	Whole School	8/3/2007	All students



Adventure-based Training Day Camp for S. 3 students



Drug Exhibition



“Real Friends” Project



Special Events / Activities (Continued)

Event / Activity	Committee / Organization	Date	Target Students
Inter-school Volleyball Competition (B Grade)	Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation	10/3/2007	Volleyball Team members (B Grade girls)
Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Board Exhibition and Games)	Careers Committee, Discipline Committee and Unison Hong Kong	19, 21/3/2007	All students
The Ceremony of Unveiling the Countdown Clock	Yau Tsim Mong District Federation	25/3/2007	S.2 and S.3 students
Visit to Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts	Careers Committee	25/3/2007	All students
U-Club Activity: Drug-Free 3-on-3 Basketball Competition 2007	Health & Sex Education Committee, Discipline Committee, Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	25/3/2007, 23, 28, 29/5/2007	All students
Social Service Day – Mongkok Integrated Service Centre for Elderly	Guidance Team	31/3/2007	Volunteers
PTA Outing	Parents-Teachers' Association	28/4/2007	All students
"Setting Goals for Myself"	Guidance Team	1/5/2007 - 3/7/2007	All students
Serving the Community — The Island Harbourview Elderly Club	Guidance Team	7/5/2007 - 11/6/2007	Volunteers
S.3 Parents' Talk on Streaming and Choice of Subjects	Careers Committee	8/5/2007	S.3 students
National Costume Day	Moral and Civic Education Committee and Parents-Teachers' Association	5/6/2007	All students
Talk on "Internet Addiction"	Guidance Team	4/7/2007	S.1 students
Talk on "Game of Study Life"	Guidance Team	5/7/2007	S.4 students
Inter-House Dance Competition	Dance Team	10/7/2007	House members



Elimination of Racial Discrimination



The Ceremony of Unveiling the Countdown Clock



Visit to HK Academy for Performing Arts



U-Club Activity: Drug-Free 3-on-3 Basketball Competition 2007



Serving the Community — The Island Harbourview Elderly Club



PTA Outing

Prizes & Awards (2006 / 07)

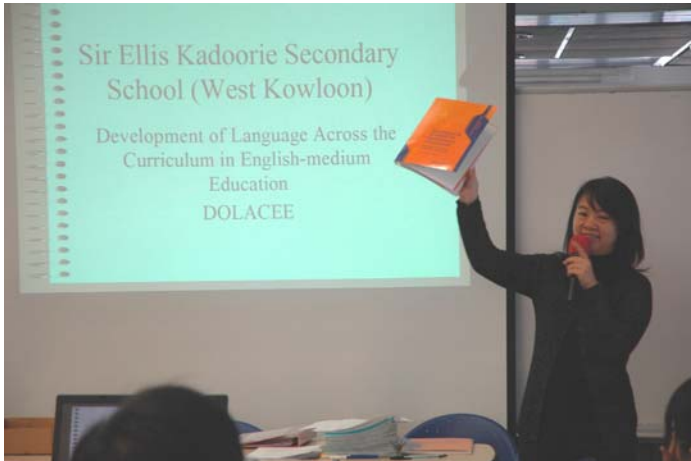
Competition	Student / Team	Award
	Marychelle Turas Avellano (S. 5B)	A. S. Watson Group HK Student Sports Awards
43 rd Hong Kong Schools Dance Festival (Oriental dance)	Oriental dance team	Overall 2 nd runner-up
	Trio dance — Indian	Commended Award
	Gurung Devi (S5A)	Highly Commended Award (Solo dance – Indian)
	Nepalese Dance Team	Highly Commended Award (Group dance — Nepalese)
	Indian Dance Team	Honours Award (Group dance — Indian)
43 rd Hong Kong Schools Dance Festival (Jazz dance)	Modern Dance Team (Group dance)	2 Highly Commended Awards
Ted Wilson Trophy Inter School Cricket Competition	School Cricket Team	Champion
3 rd Annual Urdu Debate Speech Competition, organized by the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Khan Sajid (S. 4B)	2 nd in Senior Section
	Haseeb Ahmed (S. 4C)	3 rd in Senior Section
3 rd Annual English Debate Speech Competition, organized by the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Haywel Kristyn Ng (S. 4A)	1 st in Senior Section
	Carl Mitchell Valmonte Carabio (S. 4A)	3 rd in Senior Section
	Ivan Ngai-sum Sze (S. 4A)	1 st Non-Pakistani runner-up
	Raymarc John Yumul (S. 3D)	1 st in Junior Section
	Hon Kah-choon (S. 2F)	3 rd in Junior Section
English Essay Writing Competition, organized by the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Lo Chun-fung (S. 3F)	1 st in Junior Section
	Raymarc John Yumul (S. 3D)	2 nd in Junior Section
	Fabiola Wong (S. 3F)	2 nd in Junior Section
	Christina Danielle Liu (S. 2F)	3 rd in Junior Section
	Paderes Aurelia Thea O. (S. 3D)	1 st Non-Pakistani runner-up
	Louisa Isabel Mein Smith (S. 4A)	3 rd in Senior Section
	Aishwarya Gopalakrishnan (S. 4C)	3 rd in Senior Section
Urdu Essay Writing Competition, organized by the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Bibi Mariam (S. 5C)	1 st in Senior Section
	Bibi Shabana (S. 5C)	3 rd in Senior Section
Inter-school Athletics Competition	Vivian Fung (S. 4A)	1 st runner-up in Javelin (A Grade)
	Cianne Angela Medina Oconer (S. 5A)	3 rd runner-up in Discus and Javelin (A Grade)
	Cinderella Leung Lai (S. 1A)	3 rd runner-up in 100m (C Grade)
	So Chi-on (S. 1F)	3 rd runner-up in 100m (C Grade)

DOLACEE Workshops for Teachers

From February to June this year, the Principal and all teaching staff at our school had the chance to be students again, attending lessons in the “classroom” (the school library this time), discussing and doing activities with “classmates”, reading textbooks and even doing homework.

For 9 mornings and / or afternoons, our teachers attended workshops on “Development of

Language Across the Curriculum for English-medium Education”, or DOLACEE for short. This course supports teachers who have to teach in English, such as the teachers at our school. It aims at enabling teachers of all subjects to improve the language and pedagogy



they use in class, so that their lessons become more explicit, effective, interesting and student-centred.

The series of workshops were taught by 2 of our

teachers, Ms. Josephine Chung and Mrs. Yau Kwong Tse-wai, who are licensed DOLACEE teacher-tutors after attending the workshops at the EMB earlier this year. The whole course ended on 18 June, on which our teachers celebrated this occasion, together with the Tuen Ng Festival (the Chinese “Dragon Boat Festival”), with the eating of rice dumplings.

PATHS to Adulthood

Apart from the usual curriculum of English, Maths, Computer, etc, our S1 students this year have a new lesson called PATHS.

“PATHS” is actually an acronym, which stands for “Positive Adolescent Training through Holistic Social Programmes”. This course is aimed at fostering positive qualities such as self-esteem, resilience and positive thinking among students. Students learned how to appreciate their strengths and weaknesses, set goals, distinguish between

right and wrong, handle their emotions, solve problems in different ways, etc.

Lessons were co-taught by Ms. Sandro Au, a social worker from the Hong Kong Playground Association, and one of these 3 teachers of our school: Mr. Lee Chun-man, Ms. Lam Siu-yin Teresa and Miss



Ho See-mun. Students were encouraged to participate actively in various kinds of activities such as discussions, sharing, role-plays, dramas, games and

competitions.

To further strengthen competences and skills conducive to positive growth, 14 students took part in the second tier of the PATHS. In addition to having group training after school, they took part in volunteer services outside school, too.

PATHS is sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club and coordinated by various local tertiary institutions.



Career-Oriented Curriculum (COC) Course



*Starting this year, apart from the traditional curriculum at school, some of our S4 students took a COC course outside the school on Saturdays. 'COC'—Career-Oriented Curriculum—is a variety of courses which provide both theories and authentic workplace training to help secondary school students understand their interests and abilities better to plan for future studies and work. Options include Fashion and Image Design, Leisure and Tourism Studies, and Hotel Operations. Courses are taught by instructors from institutions like the Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and the Academy for Performing Arts (APA). S. 4C student **Aphinya Chairak**, who has been taking Hotel operations at IVE, tells us what her COC course is about.*

I am taking Hotel operations every Saturday from 9am to 1pm in Kowloon Bay. We have 22 students in our class. Our instructors are professionals working at the centre.

We have learned a lot of things about the hotel industry. There are 3 major departments in the industry: front office, food and beverage (F&B), and house-keeping. At the front office, we learned about being a receptionist. We practised rooming procedures of checking in and checking out. We also practised being a cashier, who has to help customers to exchange various foreign currency.

In the F&B department, we learned how to carry a tray, fold napkins, set up a table, make cocktails, etc. Now we are also able to name all the glassware and cutlery correctly.

For house-keeping, we learned how to clean the toilet, change bed sheets, make up the room, wash the floor, etc. Besides learning these practical job skills, we also had English and Mandarin lessons, because good language competence is important for work in hotels.

I enjoyed this course. It is a good course because we can have more choices in our career in the future.



The bad thing about it is that we have to get up early on Saturdays and get to the centre on time as on normal school days. Overall, this course is worth taking.

Aphinya Chairak, S. 4C

To know more about COC (now renamed as "Applied Learning"), you may visit www.edb.gov.hk/coc.

International Air Cadet Exchange Programme 2007

*This year, two of our Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps (HKACC) members, Corporal **Sherman Yang, S. 3F**, and B. C. **Kate Wong, S. 1D**, were nominated to join the International Air Cadet Exchange Programme with some of the members and officers from Aerospace Scouts Association (ASA) of Japan. During the eleven days in Japan, 21 - 31 March, Sherman and Kate learnt a lot about aviation through lectures, visits and sharing. They also learnt how to get along with people from outside Hong Kong. Sherman shares with us their memorable experiences.*

Kate and I were delighted when we knew we had a chance to join the exchange programme in Japan. This was really an unforgettable experience. Two officers from the HKACC went with us. They were our Commanding Officer, Mr. Len Leung and Madam Leung. We were grateful for their instructions and advice throughout the trip.

On the first day, we arrived at Narita International Airport in Tokyo. It was great to feel the warm welcome by the ASA members (Picture 1). They took us to Asakusa in Tokyo where we settled in a hotel. On the second day, we visited the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) (Pictures 2 & 3). It was amazing to see the aircraft

in the hangar. We were introduced different models of aircraft in use by the JCG. The lecture was informative and interesting. After visiting the JCG, we paid a short visit to the JAL City. Then we took the monorail to *Miraikan*, which means 'the museum of the future'. We saw very creative and interesting inventions such as robots and the latest computer software (Picture 4). We had a hands-on experience of trying to operate some of the inventions. It was great fun. Before we returned to the hotel, we went to Kaminarimon, a famous tourist attraction in Tokyo.

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1. A group photo with the aerospace scouts and an officer from ASA. (Right: our Commanding Officer, Mr. Len Leung and Madam Leung from HKACC)

(Continued from page 10)

On the third day, we visited an art museum and the National Museum, which is the largest museum in Japan



2. One of the helicopters that is in use by JCG.



3. Presentation of a souvenir to the JCG after a lecture.

(Picture 5). Early the next morning, we flew to Hokkaido, where we learnt skiing (Picture 6). We were taught the basic skills of skiing by the members of ASA. We did not only learn about aviation from them, but also skiing! We stayed there for three days. Then on Day six, we flew back to Tokyo in the evening. I was looking forward to visiting one of the ASA officers' home the next day.

We were sitting cozily in an ASA officer's house in the morning of Day seven. Our host introduced to us the establishment of ASA and their routine work. He



4. An exhibit, a robot, in the museum of the future, *Mirairkan*.

also told us a lot about their bi-weekly meetings and activities. Visiting a Japanese officer's home and having a lecture were wonderful experiences. After that we visited the NHK TV studio and *Denryokukan*, which means 'electricity museum'. In the evening, we travelled to Yokohama and stayed there for the night.

The next day, we visited the Air Traffic Control Centre in Tokyo where we had a lecture on the routine work of the Air Traffic Controllers (Pictures 7 &



5. A model of the first aircraft of Hokkaido.

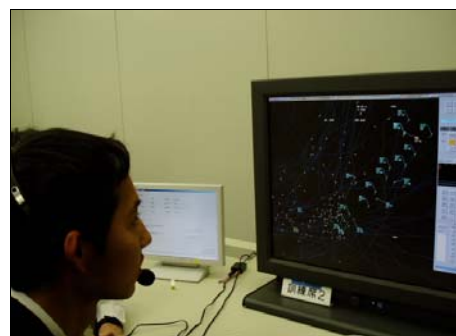


6. Members of ASA are teaching us skiing in Hokkaido.

8). Afterwards, we went to Aviation Park and visited the *Tokorozawa* Museum (Picture 9) there. We saw a lot of aircraft inside and read about the aviation history of Japan.

The next two days, we went sightseeing in Kamakura, where we visited the Great Kannon, a Japanese temple. We then went to see the Kamakura Big Buddha. We also went up Mount Fuji and visited

a number of other tourist attractions. The night before we flew back to Hong Kong, the members of ASA threw a farewell party for us. We had a wonderful time together.



8. An air traffic control simulator.

This trip was really a precious experience outside the classroom. Not only did I gain more knowledge about aviation, but I also learnt how to interact with people from Japan and their culture.

Sherman Yang, S. 3F



9. Kate and I sitting inside a 1:1 model of a military helicopter in *Tokorozawa* Museum (an aviation museum).



7. A visit to the Air Traffic Control Centre.



Our Former Students

My Complete Make-over

I've just finished my A-levels exams and now have a schedule full with activities to do with friends and jobs. From time to time, I think back to the days of my early secondary years, and I am amazed at the complete transformation I have gone through. For those of you who only knew me in my junior years at Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon), compared to me now, the Ricky they knew back then was another person—totally another person! Who would have guessed the egocentric, naïve and withdrawn me at that time would become the completely different me right now?

When I first stepped foot into SEKSS (WK), I did not have many friends, I knew almost nobody and I was as dumb and innocent as a little lamb lost on a highway. Satisfying my curiosity was what I lived for. I just loved to study, especially Science. However, it was very usual at that time for me to fail each and every Math test and many other subjects. I needed to adapt to a new education system which was quite different from that in Canada, where I came from. It was with the support of teachers that I started to show improvement in my studies within just months, especially in



Math! I've learnt different methods to study, and I was very grateful to master the skills of incorporating fun together with studies. Without the support of the teachers at SEKSS (WK), I couldn't imagine where I would end up now if I still failed my subjects. Thanks to all of them! Because of SEKSS (WK), I have developed my own philosophy—quite different from those of a typical local student—I live to study, not study to live!

Those were the changes I experienced academically. However, it was not so fortunate with my personality which couldn't be changed in such a quick way. I am still glad I've managed to transform gradually during the five years of secondary school at SEKSS (WK). I can say that the relationships among students and that between students and teachers are more than just classmates or ordinary student-teacher relationships. It is family. It was this "family" that changed me. I've found friends whom I can count on, and who count on me. Without this family, I would still be an immature little brat known to many people.

Being in any local school, you will meet different students from all over

Hong Kong. However, being in SEKSS (WK), apart from meeting people from all over Hong Kong, you will have the opportunity to meet people of different nationalities, backgrounds and even cultures coming from all over the world. Such an experience of studying is not something that a typical Hong Kong student can ever encounter. During the five whole years in SEKSS (WK), I've effectively enhanced my knowledge about the world—the different religions, rituals and cultures around the world—and my respect for them.

Apart from all those things I've gained from studying in this school that have changed my life, I've gained something that everyone gained, that is, precious memories. The five years in SEKSS (WK) were the happiest moments in my life. You couldn't find anybody who was not crying on the last day of school, including me. If people say that trauma can etch a scar on people's memory, then it is for sure that SEKSS (WK) has painted a tattoo in my mind, one that no one can deny being the most beautiful artwork in the world.

Ricky Van-yip Tso (S. 5 graduate, 2005)

After graduating in the year 2005 and passing with flying colours in his HKCEE, Ricky joined King's College to continue his studies. He has just finished his university entrance exams and is planning to further his studies at a local university in Hong Kong.

My Life at Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon)

It has been a couple of years since I graduated, yet it seems like yesterday when I first stepped into Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon).

To me, SEKSS (WK) was something more than just books, tests and exams. My school was like my family, which I could soon integrate into after being introduced to it. I was warmly welcomed and received with open arms like many others and I soon learnt to live harmoniously with others in my new humble family.

On one hand, I was sheltered and always protected from discrimination. On the other hand, I was prepared to

become competent and succeed in our cruel society.

My competitiveness would never have been so strong if it hadn't been for the dedication of all my teachers. They have profoundly nourished my knowledge and broadened my horizons while I learned to share and care for my schoolmates within our multicultural environment.

Words can't express all the gratitude I have for my teachers who were also my mentors and friends. Without all their support and dedication, I wouldn't be what I am and I wouldn't have been

able to achieve what I now have.

I am proud to be part of the big family of SEKSS (WK).

I am proud to be an "EK-er".

Irene Cheng (S. 5 graduate, 2005)

Irene (picture left) continued S. 6 and 7 at King's College and has just finished her A-levels exam. She is talented in languages and is planning to pursue her studies or career in language-related fields.



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