

2024-2025

Horizons

BUDDHIST HO NAM KAM COLLEGE



- READING BUDDIES
- ENGLISH COMPETITIONS
- ENGLISH AMBASSADORS
- BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
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FORGING AHEAD, HAND IN HAND

Reading BUDDIES



READER'S THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Reading transcends mere pastime; it serves as a gateway to enjoyment and tranquility. This year, the English Department is fervently committed to fostering students' passion for reading. Our array of activities, ranging from storytelling and book cover design competitions to Reader's Theatre and Reading Buddies program, aims to captivate and inspire. The resounding success of our reading initiatives showcase evoked palpable enthusiasm amongst students. These dynamic activities are designed to instill a lasting love for reading and establish a reading routine among students. With a vast array of reading materials available, it is essential for students to explore genres that resonate with their interests.



READING BUDDIES

We had the privilege of inviting local author Jane Houg to our school, where she enlightened our students about the significance of reading and her dedication to writing novels for youngsters. During the session, students enthusiastically inquired about Jane's journey towards embracing writing and her background as a teacher. Jane, in turn, was deeply impressed by the students' active participation and keen interest demonstrated during the event.



AUTHOR SHARING WITH JANE HOUG



A BOOK IS A GIFT YOU CAN OPEN AGAIN AND AGAIN.



CHALLENGE ENGLISH COMPETITIONS

We witnessed the highly anticipated and the first-ever 'English Game Show Challenge'. It was a fierce competition among the F.1, F.2, and F.3 students. Throughout the contest, participants showcased their knowledge, quick wit, and effective communication in English, while facing a series of intellectually stimulating questions. After three intense rounds, the F.3 team, with the help of their schoolmates in the audience, won the game show by the slimmest of margin!



This year marked the introduction of two new events: the 'Spelling Streak Challenge' and the 'English Fun N' Games Competitions'. The former engaged junior form students in a spelling competition to achieve a streak of correctly spelled words. Meanwhile, the latter involved senior form students in competitive games such as English Ping Pong and Charades. Additionally, the Speech Festival returned to hosting in-person competitions, providing students with the chance to showcase their skills in front of live audiences and fellow competitors.



ENGLISH AMBASSADORS

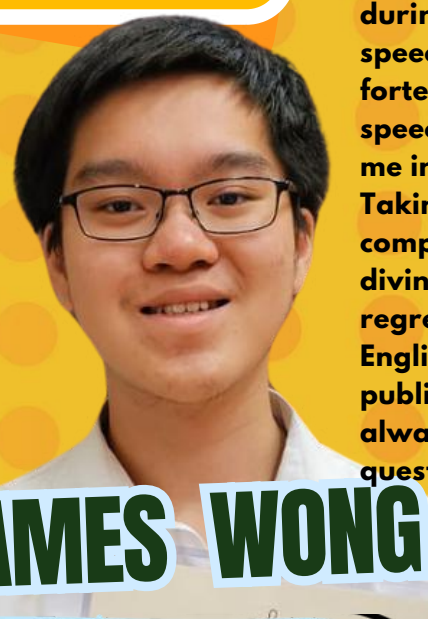
Our English Ambassadors are like language superheroes, spreading the magic of words and stories across various English events and activities. They team up with teachers and students to build a cozy nest for learning, guiding students through the wondrous world of language and helping them master the art of communication.

BECOMING A 5** AMBASSADOR

Being an English Ambassador sure had its challenges, but it was all worth it! I vividly remember my Form 1 days, sweating buckets over a speech I had to deliver during the morning assembly. At that time, writing speeches and public speaking weren't exactly my forte. Luckily, my teachers rescued me by polishing my speech and giving me pronunciation tips that turned me into a morning talk superstar!

Taking part in all the English activities and competitions is an unforgettable experience! Trust me, diving into this Ambassador role is a choice you won't regret. It is truly a golden ticket to leveling up my English which boosted my confidence going into the public examinations. And hey, remember Mr. Lou's always got your back, so fire away with your questions anytime you hit a snag!

- James Wong Ching-nam



JAMES WONG



James dedicated six years to serving as an English Ambassador at the school. Actively engaging in English-related events, he honed his speaking skills and bolstered his confidence in the language. Beyond the school environment, he excelled in Public Speaking and Speech Festival Competitions. Most recently, James attained an outstanding 5** in the 2024 HKDSE Speaking Examination. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement and thank you for your commitment and contributions as an English Ambassador!



SELF CONFIDENCE IS A SUPER POWER. ONCE YOU START TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, MAGIC STARTS HAPPENING.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN CALIFORNIA



Our Robotics Teams jetted off with a squad of nine across the Pacific Ocean to San Jose, USA for the RoboGames Competition this spring. The 7-day adventure was a whirlwind of English-speaking challenges!

From chatting with global rivals to wowing American judges with their bots, our students had to flex their English muscles at every turn. Even mundane tasks like ordering take-out or breezing through border checks required some English finesse. The San Jose trip was a game-changer for our Robotics Team. Diving headfirst into an English-speaking world, they honed their language skills and gained a whole new respect for the power of English fluency.

CULTURAL EXPLORATION BREEDS BOUNDLESS LEARNING





THE SUMMERBRIDGE EXPERIENCE



SUMMERBRIDGE 2024

Summerbridge is a non-profit organization committed to providing complimentary educational opportunities to highly motivated underprivileged secondary school students. The organization offers comprehensive year-round programs designed to improve students' English proficiency, academic abilities, and life skills. Recently, three representatives from our school's Form 2 class participated in the Summerbridge program, engaging with peers from different regions of Hong Kong. This experience not only enhanced their English proficiency but also allow them to foster new friendships and create lasting memories.



Eva Tam Tsz-yin



Eva Lau Sze-yu



Isaac Sze Tsun-ho

Resist the Temptation

I was obsessed with phones and their derivatives. Looking back, it's an unhealthy obsession but my past self didn't realize it until that faithful day...

My parents confronted me and shouted at me about the absurdly expensive electric bills were using my devices like there's no tomorrow. My mom kept shouting at me but my dad kept his composure, looked at his phone and showed me a social media challenge which did not allow me to interact with any mobile devices, or any devices for the screen. I accepted the challenge, not knowing what's in store for me.

Six hours in, I was trying my best to control my mind to not touch any of these devices I own. They were extremely tempting and I had to resist them to prove to my pants I could keep my word. The temptation may be gone now, but I still remember struggling against it as if it had just happened.

Five days in, the temptation toned down but it was still there, it's this time only and it's in my brain instead of undergoing some kind of drug withdrawal. Now I was faced with a new problem! Boredom. I had no other alternative but to turn on the device and relapse. But I didn't give in. I had gone too far that I couldn't undo all the progress I had made in the past 5 days. My dad was encouraging me, while my mom was only happy about the cheaper electrical bills.

After an entire week, I finally got on my computer to type this down. The challenge has significantly changed me because I no longer look at the screen to pass the time. I have discovered better and healthier alternatives, such as jogging to replace my screen time. Resisting the temptation what's difficult, but it is well worth it.

- 4A Cheng Hoi Tin

STUDENTS' WORK

The Watchdog

Nowadays, many people are busy and have no time for housework. The name of our product is called "The Watchdog". As a sweeping robot, it can remove stains anytime anywhere. It can also kill bacteria and viruses on the floor.

We believe every housewife will love our product because it is energy-efficient, powerful and quiet. The Watchdog is highly efficient in floor cleaning so you don't need to worry about having dirt on the floor! It will do all the cleaning itself so you don't have to!

One of the special features of this device is the product size. It is very small and compact and can be easily stored in your home. Its size is equivalent to an Apple iMac computer. Despite its small size, don't underestimate how powerful it is. It also comes in different colours, including blue, red, yellow and rainbow.

Many customers commented that it is the most useful product ever! Don't miss out and get one today!

- 3D Zhong Zhi Xuan



Bridging science, music and nature for a stellar experience

Connect with the night sky

Exodus Sit Chun-long is a cross-media astronomy educator in Hong Kong, a popular science writer, a photographer and a creator of astronomical music.

During the pandemic, Sit had the fortunate opportunity to discover an Apollo-type asteroid with an estimated diameter of about 40 metres.

“I never expected to find an asteroid smaller than a standard pool in the vast universe, especially during the pandemic,” Sit expressed. In today’s fast-paced urban life, an increasing number of people find it challenging to connect with nature, relax and be themselves.

Sit has travelled to various locations, including Sweden, Tasmania in Australia, and the Sahara Desert, to witness the awe-inspiring night sky. He believes that being under a dark sky allows people to get closer to nature and focus on themselves, freeing them from the constant worries of daily life.

Moreover, Sit was the first to send an original Cantonese song, “Deep Sky Objects”, to the edge of space at an altitude of 103,018 metres using the air balloon “Alang Star One”.

People often perceive scientists as solely focused on studying books and consider them boring. However, Sit emphasises that scientists are also interested in sports, music and other fields. Creating this song and sending it to space aims to break stereotypes about scientists.

Furthermore, music knows no boundaries; it can transcend language barriers and connect people worldwide while promoting Hong Kong culture.

Encouraging students to venture outside the confines of the classroom, Sit advocates immersing oneself in nature to fully explore personal interests. He believes that first-hand experiences are far more valuable than second-hand knowledge.

-5A Zhao Qiao-yan



Exodus Chun-Long Sit is a Transmedia Astronomer and Astro-Musician from Hong Kong, actively promotes dark-sky protection, popular science, and STEAM Education. He is also the Guest Speaker of Hong Kong Space Museum

In 2019, Exodus Sit Chun-long submitted an original Cantonese song called “Deep Sky Objects” into space, aiming to promote public interest in astronomy.

According to Sit, “Music possesses a multisensory nature and serves as a non-verbal medium.” It has the power to connect with people from diverse cultures and interdisciplinary backgrounds, transcending beyond scientists or environmentalists. Music can convey messages without relying on specific elements such as language or culture. Sit’s goal is to unite music and astronomy to capture the public’s attention and inspire wonder for the marvels of the universe.

In today’s fast-paced world, people have limited opportunities to connect with nature.

Even during weekends or occasional visits to national parks or the countryside, Sit expressed, “I can truly be myself in a dark environment.” In such settings, he finds comfort as he can escape the daily concerns and distractions that occupy his mind. Instead, he can fully immerse himself in studying the stars, observing the night sky and exploring astronomical objects.

Sit shares several approaches that can help individuals achieve success. Firstly, reading books provides an accessible way to acquire new knowledge, much like Sit did during his youth. He delved into science books to expand his understanding of astronomy.

Secondly, he emphasises the importance of venturing outside the classroom and exploring new realms independently, rather than relying solely on second-hand knowledge. For instance, Sit would go camping for stargazing, allowing him to witness the beauty of constellations and dive deeper into the subject of astronomy.

Lastly, he encourages learning from successful individuals and adopting their strategies as inspiration for personal growth.

In summary, Sit combines music and astronomy to raise awareness among Hong Kong citizens about the significance of darkness and the detrimental impact of light pollution. Through this interview, he also encourages young people to explore and pursue their dreams.

-5A Kwok Kam-pui