

**School Talk**

# Gifted education: classroom and everywhere

**H**aving achieved a total of 6 champions in the English Speech Choral Speaking Competition and 21 champions in the Solo Verse Speaking Competition of the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festivals during 2006–2016, together with at least 4 awards each time in the Hong Kong School Drama Festival, the Endeavourers Leung Lee Sau Yu Memorial Primary School (LLSY) pays great effort to explore and develop the potential of each student. In this issue, we are pleased to have the Principal and English teachers of LLSY share with us how they implement gifted education in school to nurture gifted students by providing flexible and diversified learning activities and programmes. They believe that gifted education benefits not only high achievers, but can also improve the performance of less able students.



**School Profile**

The Endeavourers Leung Lee Sau Yu Memorial Primary School advocates the principles of gifted education by implementing effective learning strategies in their school. Teachers and students are now using **Lighthouse for Hong Kong** coursebook series and the **e-Smart system** in their English lessons.

We hope to create an English language learning environment for students in order to drive a language learning culture among them. We provide plenty of opportunities for students to be exposed to the real world outside, out of the classroom, to use English in different contexts. Diversified educational projects and activities, such as participation in overseas competitions and the Stanley Visit Projects, can allow students to use English in real life, and this is what we always emphasise — the importance of “exposure”. — Mr Chan Kam Shun, Principal of LLSY





The Principal and teachers of LLSY use Dr. Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences model to implement gifted education in their school. For English, the aspects of linguistic, musical and interpersonal skills are the main areas of concern. Their diversified language-based programmes, coupled with the teaching materials of **Lighthouse for Hong Kong** provide the **best environment** to explore the strengths and potential of students and to fulfil their different needs.

01

## “Creative Writing Programme”



**Mr Sze**  
English Panel Head

The Creative Writing Classes for P.4-P.6 help develop students' thinking and creativity abilities while improving their language skills and expanding their range of vocabulary. Guided by our NETs, students go through the whole process of writing on a specific topic each time, from brainstorming, mind mapping, draft writing to final work. Through a variety of creative activities such as story writing, the development of a detective story or picture story writing, students can explore different ways of putting their creative ideas into words. At the end of the class, student magazines are produced to showcase students' creative works.

**Mr Sze :** When our NETs design the writing topics, they will refer to the vocabulary students have recently learnt in class. We appreciate that **Lighthouse for Hong Kong** provides students with a solid foundation in **essential skills building** and a **wealth of vocabulary**. With extensive exposure to a wide range of topics, it can broaden students' vocabulary range which is essential for them to upgrade their language skills in the future. For example, topics like laboratory and experiments are covered, which are related to the secondary school Integrated Science subject. Students can be better prepared to enter secondary school.

02

## “Stanley Visit Project”

We believe that out-of-classroom experience is an incredibly effective way of learning for students. We took Primary 5 students to Stanley and asked them to interview tourists from different countries. In addition to practising the language, it is also a kind of interpersonal skills training and teamwork experience, as more outstanding students could assist less able students to finish the tasks. Besides interviewing tourists, eating out at McDonald's was another task for students. They had to order their meals in English. We recognise that the tasks could really help students build up their confidence to speak in English.



**Mr Yam**  
Curriculum Leader

**Ms Mak**  
English Panel

**Ms Lam**  
English Panel

**Mr Chan**  
Principal

**Mr Sze**  
English Panel Head



## “ Overseas International Competitions ”

We always seize every opportunity to bring students to participate in international competitions abroad so that they can be exposed to contexts where English is the only language of communication. Just like last year, our Principal Mr Chan personally led 3 students to Singapore to join the “Amazing Flying Machine Competition 2015”.

Mr Chan said, “Students had to use English in hotels, at the airport immigration counters and in the competition. They had to listen to the instructions of the organiser and learn how to communicate with students from other countries. After the competition, they had to make presentations and share their experience with their classmates in school. The experience enhanced students’ confidence in using English and of course, their listening and speaking skills also improved.”



**Mr Sze :** We should think about how to broaden students’ horizon by providing them with more chances to connect with the global world. Students enjoy reading the *Light up the world* section in *Lighthouse for Hong Kong*. They are exposed to countries such as Scotland and Indonesia through interesting topics. These kinds of extended reading materials can match with what we always emphasise — the importance of “exposure”. Students are excited when they meet tourists who come from the countries they know.

**Mr Yam :** Places like Nepal and the Bermuda Triangle are introduced to Primary 5 students. Coupled with the story telling skills of teachers, students’ imagination of these mysterious places can be stimulated, and they can develop their thinking skills as well.

Other English language-based programmes like festival promotion events and co-curricular activity days (English game booths manned by our NETs) are organised throughout the year. “Our aim is to help students learn English at school in a leisured environment; after that, they can master English in their daily life,” said Mr Chan.



**Mr Yam**  
Curriculum Leader

## “ e-Learning resources to tie in gifted education ”

**Mr Yam :** To deepen, speed up and broaden learning is our focus when implementing gifted education. We think e-Learning is one of the effective ways to speed up the language learning process of students. We always motivate students to read extended materials through online platforms after class.

*A Passage a Day in EnglishPlus@e-Smart system* provides a new and flexible way of reading. It can help to **improve students’ reading skills** and **vocabulary** range. Reading a passage through tablets or mobiles means students can learn anywhere at any time.

## “ Make good use of space to create language environment ”

**Mr Chan :** In the coming future, we will keep on enhancing the language learning environments in school. We have constructed agriculture fields to enable students to experience farming. In terms of English language application, it can be a good environment for students to learn topics such as planting and agriculture. Target language items could be consolidated as students walk outside the classroom, seeing and touching the vegetables and fruit.





Lighthouse for Hong Kong is a coursebook series published by Educational Publishing House with the support of internationally renowned publisher, Richmond—a leading global publisher specialising in ELT publishing.

## Lighthouse Coursebook Series — a wide range of vocabulary

- Around 14–20 new words with themed topic in each unit (over **1,000 new words** in total)
- A wide range of topics is introduced to broaden students' vocabulary range



## “Light up the world” section

- Exposes students to different cultures through interesting topics; more than 40 places are introduced
- Widens global vision
- Suggested web links for students to learn more about related topics



## A Passage a Day **ENGLISH PLUS@eSmart**

- All passages are accompanied by MC questions and open-ended questions
- Incorporates a reporting system and allows you to readily identify your top students
- Various text types (e.g. comics, articles, stories, advertisements)



\*All passages are adopted from



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**Educational Publishing House**

14/F, Tsuen Wan Industrial Centre, 220-248 Texaco Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.

Tel: (852) 2942 9338

E-mail: [ephhk@popularworld.com](mailto:ephhk@popularworld.com)

Website: <http://www.ephhk.com>