A Message From the Principal

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.” —Frank Smith, Psycholinguist

Hong Kong is an international city; apart from our native language Cantonese, English and Putonghua are widely spoken. It is therefore essential that you, our future generation, should master these language skills.

English still remains as the official language after the handover and it is also the main language used in all parts of the world. It creates job opportunities in the global workforce. It also enables you to read many English books and provides you with a powerful means to exchange ideas and to understand cultures.

As your Principal, it has been my aim to provide you with an environment conducive to learning English. Learning English can be time consuming and challenging - one way to learn it well is to seize every opportunity to practice. In this booklet, we have shown the fun activities our school has organized for our students to engage in and to put the language into practice. We hope you will use these skills as often as you can with your teachers, classmates, friends and even families.

There is no substitute to hard work in mastering language skills. Enjoy and I wish you every success in learning English!

YIP Kai Kwan Julian

This has been an exciting year for learning English at SCS. The English teachers worked hard to nurture a Language Rich Learning Environment (LRLE) for the students by promoting idioms, playground activities, reading aloud, phonics, and many more activities. The English curriculum is constantly developing and expanding to meet the diverse needs of our students. Through English, we have embraced our school’s three core values of Study Smart, Courage to Create and Serve God and Others. This school magazine written by the students highlights some of the exciting news and events in the English Department.
This year was the 65th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival and our students performed with incredible results. Through hard work and with the support of our teachers and parents, the lower primary choral speaking team won the championship. The competition was held at Tuen Mun Town Hall and 45 students from Primary 1 to Primary 3 participated. The poem they recited was “Oh, Ozzie!” written by Richard Edwards. Miss Teresa who was the teacher in charge said, “The students showed Courage to Create by saying the poem with lots of feeling and facial expressions. I am very proud of them.” Special thanks must be given to all the parent helpers who made the beautiful costumes for the students and supported them on the performance day. The students could not have done it without all the love and care from our parent helpers.

In addition to the choral speaking teams, 144 SCS students joined the solo-speaking competition and almost all the students were able to achieve Merit. In solo-speaking, students needed to recite a poem by heart with feeling. They showed great school spirit and did wonderfully. This year, 9 students were also chosen to participate in the challenging prose-reading competition where they needed to read aloud from a book. This was a new experience for the students as they learned how to use their facial expressions and their voices to tell a story. Congratulations to all our students and we encourage more students to participate next year!
A Video Meet with Friends

On the 3rd of October, Primary 5 and Primary 6 SCS students joined the KWN (Kid Witness News) project. They had to communicate with Japanese students from Okazaki Daimon Primary School in a video meeting in the CSL room. The video meet started with a school introduction. The Japanese students seemed very interested in SCS school’s activities and achievements. Then SCS students taught them about Hong Kong’s traditional snacks such as pineapple buns, bowl pudding, wife cakes and egg tarts. After that, the students demonstrated how to make a maltose biscuit snack. It was an exciting part of the event and the students were full of joy.

The presentation from our friends in Japan was also engaging as they introduced a cartoon character from Okazaki city, presented some special Japanese food and taught us how to play a Japanese game. What attracted the SCS students’ interest the most was the Japanese school’s environment. The environment and the view around their school were gorgeous. Compared to their environment, the schools in Hong Kong are more urban.

After this incredible and unique video meet with our friends from Japan, SCS students discovered a lot about the Japanese people, their culture and their school life. It was really a golden chance for us to communicate with students from another country. The students also learned the importance of having a good language base because the Japanese students did not speak English well whereas the Hong Kong students could communicate in English fluently. Therefore, students need to cherish the chance to learn more alternative languages so that they can have better social skills when they grow up.

Everyone learned a lot from the KWN video meet between Japan and Hong Kong. The event ended in applause and cheers, and SCS students presented the Japanese students with a Cyberart picture that was drawn during the video meet. SCS students look forward to having another wonderful experience like this again.
A Successful Spellathon

The 6th SCS Spellathon has come to an end and a party was held on May 13 for all our great spellers. The Spellathon is a fund-raising activity where the funding is used for the development of our English department. Moreover, it can stimulate students to learn new vocabulary. It seems that the Spellathon is our students’ cup of tea.

This year we raised $157,087 in donations. SCS teachers would like to especially thank all the parents who gave their encouragement and support. But that’s not all... Students who achieved the Outstanding Speller and Highest Fundraising Award were invited to have a party with Mr.Yip. They were very glad. During the Spellathon party, Mr. Yip presented prizes and certificates to the students.

Mr. Yip also presented certificates to the Best Performing Class and Outstanding Participating Class. The Best Performing classes were 1A (Miss Sin), 2C (Miss Ip), 3D (Miss Law), 4C (Miss Har), 5B (Miss Chow), and 6A (Miss Ip). These classes got the highest marks in their levels in the Spellathon. The Outstanding Participating Class for lower primary is Class 2C (Miss Ip) and for upper primary, Class 5B (Miss Chow). These two classes raised the most funds in the school! Congratulations to the students and their English teachers.

The Spellathon is a golden chance for students to improve their English and to show the school’s core values; Study Smart for the Spellathon by using phonics and chunking skills; have Courage to Create by learning more adjectives and challenging ourselves; and Serve God and Others by raising funds for our school.
Interviews With Our Outstanding Spellers

The Outstanding Speller Award is for students who are the top of their grade level. Wong Sum Ha is a Primary 2 student from Class 2A. She was also a group winner and finalist for the CECES Bedtime English Story Telling Contest 2013. She truly shows us how to Study Smart and to have the Courage to Create!

*How does it feel to be an Outstanding Speller?*
I feel so excited and joyful because it is a pleasure to get the Best Speller Award in two successive years. This year, I got the Outstanding Speller Award and I felt so encouraged and motivated.

*What did you do to prepare for the Spellathon?*
Spelling became a part of my life. Every day I just spend a few minutes to practice with my mum. Both of us like to play oral games. I think spelling is easy for me because besides chunking, my mum and I always try to find many interesting memory methods.

*How important is it to be a good speller?*
I think it is important to be a good speller because we need to be attentive, to spell carefully and have a well-organized system that we can apply to our studies.

*What is some advice you would give to other students to improve their spelling?*
You need to spend a few minutes to practice every day and set up your own memory methods by yourself.

Ted Li Ping Tat is a Primary 6 student from Class 6A. He won second place in the solo speaking competition and he is also an SCS Ambassador. Ted shows us the spirit of our school’s core values.

*How does it feel to be an Outstanding Speller?*
I am a P6 student and since this is my last year at SCS, I am honoured to be an Outstanding Speller. The Spellathon was first held when I was in lower primary. At that time, I was not confident to spell and got a poor result. I am proud of myself to have reached my dream.

*Do you think spelling is easy or difficult?*
It depends on your reading habits. If you started reading during your childhood years, you would have confidence to spell, and then you would think it is easy. Besides studying the spelling list, I read a lot of English books because I think I should broaden my experiences rather than just preparing from a worksheet. Otherwise, if you just read one or two books, you would think spelling is difficult because you did not develop a habit.

*How important is it to be a good speller?*
It may help you in your social life or it may give you skills to help you in school. To be able to spell well means you already have a basic knowledge of English. English is an international language so it is important to be a good speller because this is a basic level for us.

*What is some advice you would give to other students to improve their spelling?*
Students shouldn’t just see the Spellathon as a competition. They should think how it helps them improve their English. In this way, they will challenge themselves more often instead of just spelling those 80-100 words. They should hit the books to learn more.
Our school organizes a Primary Literacy Programme – Reading/Writing (PLP-R/W) for Primary 1 to Primary 3 students. The Programme is a literacy programme in which reading and writing skills are integrated in the lessons. These skills can be enhanced through different learning processes such as guided reading and guided writing. Students learn to expand their own learning and reflect on their progress.

The programme also includes phonics and high-frequency words teaching. Our English Room, which is aligned with our school’s policy of LRLE, provides a print-rich environment so that students develop the habit of self-learning.

The programme creates an authentic learning environment that encourages students to use the English language naturally and spontaneously. Students have the courage to express themselves in English and gain the skills of language learning.

Our library reading lessons are dedicated to developing students’ interest and habit towards reading English books. These lessons are tailor made to achieve our goals for students to be independent and lifelong learners. Students are divided into different groups that are guided by different English teachers.

Teachers guide students on different reading strategies like phonics and chunking skills to facilitate their reading. Students are encouraged to read together in ‘Buddy Reading’. Students also work through a self-learning booklet to complete various exercises which include phonics, vocabulary and comprehension elements. They are then asked to self-check and do corrections independently.

Students are greatly encouraged to face unfamiliar words, make predictions and understand the meaning of the story. The implementation of this program showed students’ positive learning attitude and a great improvement in their independent reading ability.
Playground Activities

There are many playground activities for students at SCS. The SCS Ambassadors organize many English activities for SCS students during recess. These games let students learn a lot about phonics and spelling. Students can also sing the SCS song and say the SCS Core Values with the Ambassadors. During different festivals, there are crossword and word search activities. Students look for clues on the playground to fill out a crossword. Also, there are many game days where students come down to the playground to play many different games about English learning.

Print-Rich Environment

Our school has a print-rich environment so that students can study smart by improving their English skills. For example, the posters on the playground and in the classrooms teach the students idioms and English proverbs. They can use these sayings in their writing to make it more creative. There are also many bulletin boards with different kinds of vocabulary to help them gain more knowledge. Students also contribute to the print-rich environment by helping make posters to promote school events, such as the Spellathon.

Idioms in Action

Spelling is a piece of cake because I can chunk the words so that I can spell them correctly.
~Cheng Pok Tat, 2C

Miss Wan is the apple of my eye because she teaches me how to write interesting English stories with many fantastic words.
~Bobo Wong King Ching, 2E

I hit the books by doing WELS. I do exercises, play English games, and read e-books.
~Elaine Tong, 3A

Writing an article is a piece of cake because when you find the main point, you will soon get a lot of ideas. The ideas will just pop into your head.
~Toby Chau Hui Tung, 6B

Miss Chow is the apple of my eye because she is kind and helpful.
~Amelie Ho, 3B

I hit the books by doing English exercises, WELS and E-prep. Also, I do revisions at weekends.
~Matthew Chan, 4A

Spelling is a piece of cake because I can find lots of helpful skills through the language-rich environment of our school. Our school gives us a lot of resources to encourage us so that we enjoy learning English.
~Eilly Li Hoi Yee, 6A

Miss Law is the apple of my eye because she teaches Class 4A a lot of new sentence structures.
~Jerry Leung, 4A

I hit the books by reading in the library so that I can learn more beautiful words to use in my writing.
~Jasper Seto Hin, 6B

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~Jerry Leung, 4A

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~Jasper Seto Hin, 6B
Learning Phonics is a Piece of Cake

An Inter-Class Phonics Competition was held for Primary 1 and 2 students. Before the competition, the students had to hit the books to learn the chants and sounds by heart. In the competition, the students demonstrated class spirit, co-operation, and enthusiasm in performing the Alphabet Chants, as well as doing the Action Alphabet. The teachers listened for the correct pronunciation of the letter sounds and also looked for creativity. For Chunk-Check-Cheer, students listened and spelled unfamiliar words. The winner of the Primary 2 Phonics Competition was Miss Ip’s Class 2C. The winner of the Primary 1 Phonics Competition was Miss Chan’s Class 1B.

Primary 3 and Primary 4 students also had an Inter-Class Competition, the Chunking Bee. Students had to chunk words using phonics, and in the lightning round, they had to buzz in quickly with the correct answers. Students also tested their Study Smart skills by listening to the teacher and spelling unfamiliar words. The winner of the Primary 3 Chunking Bee was Miss Chan’s Class 3E. The winner of the Primary 4 Chunking Bee was Miss Har’s Class 4C.

Learning phonics is important because it is a tool to help students Study Smart when they are reading and writing. We hope the students keep up the good work in phonics.
Language is the tool for people to express emotions, to help us think, and it is the basis of learning. Writing is a fabulous way to train our creativity, critical thinking, and language skills. This year, many of our students showed Courage to Create by joining creative writing classes after school and participating in various writing competitions. The students were challenged greatly. Examples of some of the writing competitions are Good People, Good Deeds; Our Role in Society; and many more.

One of the competitions for Primary 5 and Primary 6 students was an on-site writing competition organized by Tai Po Sam Yuk Secondary School. The competition was divided into two categories: English and Chinese writing. The contestants needed to finish a high-quality writing within 45 minutes. It was very challenging as the contestants did not know the topic until the competition started. SCS students did a great job in this competition. Four of our Primary 6 students got an ‘Outstanding Award’ and one got second place. Congratulations for their second-to-none results!

Writing is really a excellent chance for students to build up their language abilities. If you are interested in reading our students’ good work, you can go onto our school's webpage at www.scs.edu.hk. Next year, we hope more students will take part in the writing competitions. Get ready to write an outstanding passage!

In December 2013, 120 students from our school participated in the Cambridge English Young Learners Examinations, in the Starters, Movers and Flyers exams. Since many students took part in the exam, we were able to host the exam at our school. It was very challenging as the students’ English skills were measured and their strategies in completing this difficult exam was put to the test showing that SCS students know how to live up to our school’s first core value to Study Smart. They all tried their best to learn and some students even attended extra lessons after school. To get 15 shields, students must have full marks. There are 5 shields for each skill item: listening, speaking, and reading and writing. More than half the students got 12 to 15 shields. What delightful news! We hope more students will Study Smart next year and have the courage to take this challenging exam!
Time flies, and it is already the end of this wonderful year. Let us sum up the school year and see how the students of SCS have been serving the school.

SCS Ambassadors are Primary 2 to Primary 6 students chosen by the teachers to represent the school. They demonstrate excellent leadership skills and are talented in English. These students are fantastic at giving presentations and school tours to special guests from other countries such as Singapore, Britain and the U.S.A. SCS Ambassadors also take to the stage as hosts and presenters during school events and assemblies.

This year, the SCS Ambassadors were honored to host the KWN video meet with Japanese students. They welcomed special visitors from the EDB with pleasure as they introduced the guests to the school’s facilities and the English Department’s unique school-based programmes. The SCS Ambassadors reported and wrote about all the English school events that occurred during the school year.

English Smarties are students from Primary 2 to Primary 6 who volunteer their time to help other students learn English. They are responsible and caring as they guide students in doing the English activities. English Smarties and Aunties and Uncles English showed great team spirit as they worked together to run the AUE activities every Tuesday. English Smarties were also on duty every recess in the English room to lead students in English activities such as Scrabble and board games.

Let us thank the SCS Ambassadors and the English Smarties for all their hard work. We hope all the students enjoyed the English activities. If you love learning English, join the SCS Ambassadors and English Smarties next year to Serve God and Others!
Practice Makes Perfect: Drama and Idioms

One of the aims of the English Curriculum is to promote the rich use of English in the environment or LRLE. This year, students have been learning more and more idioms to use in their speaking and writing. The idioms are posted on the playground as well as in the English Pass. Learning idioms encourages students to practice the school’s second core value, Courage to Create, by performing dramas about the idioms during morning assemblies. Primary 2 to Primary 5 students worked hard in the drama class during extra-curricular activities to learn the scripts by heart to perform in front of the whole school. They are also serving the school (our third core value) by teaching others about idioms. If students are interested in learning more about idioms, they can revise their English Pass or look at all the colourful posters displayed on the playground.

SCS Students are the Cream of the Crop

The following drama script was written and performed by the students of 4A: Lam Tsoi Yi Joyce, Wong Oi Ying Melody, Cheng Chun Him Toby, and Fung Tsz Yiu Freda. They were challenged with including as many idioms as they could in the script. How many idioms can you recognize?

Setting - The Spellathon has just ended. Students are talking about what they will do next.

Melody: The Spellathon is finished! I feel like I am on cloud nine!
Joyce: Who is the cream of the crop in the Spellathon?
Toby: Freda is the cream of the crop. I think she is the apple of our teacher's eye.
Melody: The Spellathon was a piece of cake for Freda.
Freda: It is because I learned how to spell the words by heart.
Joyce: If I could have a party with our principal, Mr. Yip, I would have butterflies in my stomach because I am too shy to talk with him.
Melody: A party? Oh! That would make my mouth-water.
Toby: Me too! But English is not my cup of tea so I always get low marks in the Spellathon or Dictation. I don’t think I will have a party with Mr. Yip.
Freda: Toby, you need to do more exercises, do revision, keep a diary...
Melody: Wait! Wait! Hold your horses. There are too many ideas.
Joyce: In a nutshell, you need to Study Smart and hit the books.
Toby: Ok! Ok! I will try my best!
Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the parents of SCS for helping our English Department this school year. All of you carry out an important mission - to help students learn English. During all the Aunties and Uncles English activities, students have fun and they are using English authentically. Learning English is very important because it is an international language and AUE activities give our students a golden chance to practice English!

We thank all the Aunties and Uncles English for holding AUE activities at recess in the English room. Students enjoy playing the games and through the games, they are building up their English skills. We also thank the Aunties and Uncles for supporting our school by making colourful costumes for the students and helping them get ready for the speech festival competitions. Furthermore, we thank the parents for their love and care by helping our students prepare for the TSA patiently.

Aunties and Uncles also demonstrate our school’s core values. You help our students to use different skills to Study Smart. You also have Courage to Create by making lots of interesting games for us. And through all your efforts, you use your own time to Serve God and our school! All the students of SCS thank the Aunties and Uncles for your continual support and love! God bless our school, and our parents.

Sincerely,
The students of SCS

SCS Core Values!

I Study Smart by planning ahead of time so I know what to do during the day.
I have Courage to Create because I think it is important to create new things for the world.
I Serve God and Others by thinking of myself as a servant to God and everyone.
~Raymond Chan, 2C

I Study Smart by using a lot of different ways to study, such as jotting down notes or using mind maps and pictures.
I have Courage to Create because I always think of new ideas that nobody has thought of before.
I Serve God and Others by helping others with their homework and always praying for my family and those in need.
~Nadine Law, 6B

A Thank You Letter to the AUE

I Study Smart by spelling, reading and writing. If I don’t know how to spell, I will chunk.
I have Courage to Create because I am not scared to learn more English. I like to read English books.
I Serve God and Others with my heart, soul and mind. I give others love every day.
~Boki Lee, 2C

I Study Smart by doing my online homework, such as WELS and FnF.
I have Courage to Create because I can create interesting English story games for the lower primary students to play and learn.
I Serve God and Others by being a prefect and an SCS Ambassador and helping the lower primary students do their homework.
~Nicole Chung, 4A

~Boki Lee, 2C