



# Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon)



## Episodes

### Annual Speech Day

The Annual Speech Day on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004, was honoured by the presence of Guest of Honour, Professor Mark Bray, the Dean of the Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong.

From him, our student prize-winners received various prizes and awards. These included recognitions of good results in the final examinations and public examinations 2003-04, various scholarships, most improved student awards, outstanding student awards, and prizes in inter-school competitions. All prize-winners were given warm and encouraging applause from the audience.

After many hand-shakings and photos-takings, Professor Bray addressed the school. He pointed out that 'part of the important role our school plays is acting as a confluence of cultures, which is much to be treasured in our society'.

Indeed, the performance programme that followed illustrated his point as students displayed their talents in various languages and performing arts.

The programme included a French role play, two English drama performances, and an English poem recitation,



all well received by the audience.

These were followed by two poem recitations in Urdu and Hindi, as well as a choral speaking performance in



Chinese.

The School Choir aptly rounded off the performance programme by singing two songs, "Perfect" and "My Happy Ending".

Guests, including our benefactors, principals of other schools, friends, as well as parents of our students, were greatly impressed by the multiculturalism of the school and the diverse talents of our students as they moved away from the School Hall into the Student Activity Centre for refreshments.

As the Head Girl, Mohamad Zobia (S5A), has



rightly pointed out in her Vote of Thanks, the Annual Speech Day is not only a day for our students to demonstrate their strengths, to recognize the achievements of the graduates

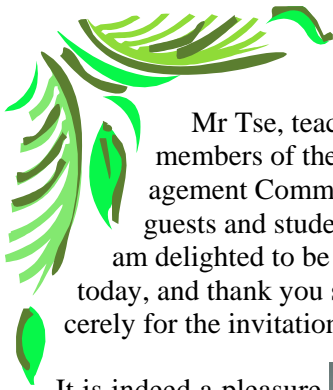
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and prize-winners, but also an occasion for them to show appreciation to the school and their parents.

Speech Day is indeed not merely a day for speeches, but also an opportune moment to count our blessings, to celebrate and to look forward to a more fruitful year ahead.



## **Address by Professor Mark Bray, on the Occasion of the 2003-04 Speech Day of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon)**



Mr Tse, teachers, members of the Management Committee, guests and students: I am delighted to be here today, and thank you sincerely for the invitation.

It is indeed a pleasure to hand out so many prizes; and to see that the prizes, in addition to those for academic achievement, include ones for sports, librarianship, monitoring, and many other dimensions. Many students have received prizes. Others have not received prizes today, but will do so in the future. Yet others may not receive prizes during their careers in school; but even these students will have developed in their own ways, and have much to be proud of.

A Speech Day is a special occasion to take stock. The principal has just done so with his Annual Report. Such events can become routine - especially for the teachers, whose lives are busy and find that a year goes so fast. But perhaps students may see the events differently - especially growing adolescents who are an inch or two taller each year, and so see the world from a different angle!

Different visiting speakers each year also see the world from different angles, and so can bring different messages. My angle is the University of Hong Kong (HKU) - a tertiary institution at the

next stage of the education system which is always glad to have applications from excellent students. I met some Sir Ellis Kadoorie Students at the last HKU Open Day, brought by Mr Tse. It was a pleasure to welcome them to our campus, and I trust that we shall have many ongoing links.



I also have a research angle as I look at your school. For some years, I have conducted research on the international schools in Hong Kong. I am not sure how many of you see Sir Ellis Kadoorie as an international school; but it is in fact important to include on the list, alongside such institutions as the Hong Kong International School, the English Schools Foundation (ESF) schools, Concordia, German-Swiss, etc.. Sir Ellis Kadoorie can be seen as a local-system international school within the public sector; and as such plays a very important role.

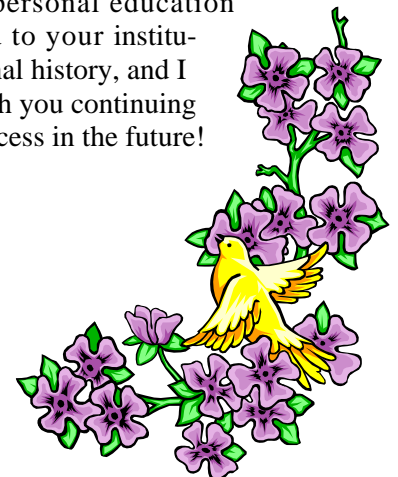
Part of that role is acting as a confluence of cultures, which is much to be treasured in our society. Adolescents are sometimes shy,

wanting to be the same rather than different. That is natural, and understandable. But multiculturalism is in fact something much to be valued, and in today's Speech Day I am especially impressed to see the performances in French, Urdu, Hindi and Chinese as well as English.

So, my message to you can be summarized as follows. Take the Speech Day as a time to take stock:

- *For the students:* Evaluate how much have you grown. How are you different from this time last year?
- *For the teachers:* Assess how the environment is changing, and how you are keeping up. Perhaps you have grown too - but professionally, rather than in height!
- *For the school:* Treasure your long history and your multiculturalism. Be proud of the institution. The outside world feels that you are a special school, playing a distinctive and very important role in the Hong Kong education system.

I congratulate you all on adding another successful year to personal education and to your institutional history, and I wish you continuing success in the future!





## **Parents-Teachers' Association, 2004/2005**

### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

On 19th November 2004, parents and teachers gathered in the School Hall in the evening for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Parents-Teachers' Association.

Mr. Tse Sik-yan, the Principal, commenced by welcoming all to the occasion and briefed parents on the latest development of the school. The Chairman of the PTA (2003/2004), Mr. Balvinder Singh, then gave a report on the PTA's activities in the year 2003/2004 while the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Kumar, referred members to the Statement of Accounts. As a token of gratitude, certificates of appreciation were presented to the teacher-members and the parent-members who had served on the PTA Executive Committee, 2003/2004. The highlight of the evening was the election of Executive Committee parent-members for the year 2004/2005. Participation was keen and the numbers of votes were close. Newly elected parent-members voted among themselves the various office bearers of the Executive Committee for the year 2004/2005.

The table on the right records the members of the Executive Committee for the year 2004/2005:

Name	Office	Teacher-member / Parent-member
Mr. Syed Jamil Raghbi	Chairman	Parent-member
Mr. Tse Sik-yan	Vice-Chairman	Principal
Mr. G.S. Batra	Vice-Chairman	Parent-member
Mrs. Marietta Chengalath	Honorary Secretary	Parent-member
Ms. Josephine Chung	Honorary Secretary	Teacher-member
Mrs. Kanakalatha Gopalakrishnan	Honorary Treasurer	Parent-member
Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar	Honorary Treasurer	Teacher-member
Mr. Russell Vincent	Committee Member	Parent-member
Mrs. Gemma Oconer	Committee Member	Parent-member
Ms. Joann Catedrilla Bautista	Committee Member	Parent-member
Ms. Rahat Perveen Ali Shah	Committee Member	Parent-member
Mr. Lam Hon-ching	Committee Member	Assistant Principal
Ms. Yuen Ka-chung	Committee Member	Assistant Principal
Ms. Hung Fei-kei	Committee Member	Teacher-member
Mrs. Yau Kwong Tse-wai	Committee Member	Teacher-member



## **56<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival**

From September through December 2004, when you passed by the corridors, Staff Room or some empty classrooms during recess, lunchtime or after school, you might have overheard some students reciting rhymes and lines. What was going on?

They were practising for the annual Schools Speech Festival.

This year, a total high number of 61 students from our school took part in the competitions, attempting categories like Dramatic Duologue (drama for two), Prose Sight Reading and

Bible Reading. More than half of the participants received a high mark of 80% or above. 13 of them even became runners-up.

Congratulations to the prize-winners and thank you to the dedicated training by teachers!

Student(s)	Position	Category
Haywel K. Ng, 1C	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking
Agatha N. Villanueva, 1D	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking
Yam Wing-kan, 1E	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking
Surbeet Kaur Sandhu, 3A and Kristine A. Wong, 3A	Co-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dramatic Duologue
Nathaniel Lam, 4A	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking
Arshad Ejaz, 4A	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bible Reading
Mary Rose Gurrea, 4A	Co-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking
Kamana Rai, 4A	Co-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking
Christine B. Romea, 4B	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking
Mary Fonda Velasco, 4A and Arshad Ejaz, 4A	Co-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dramatic Duologue
Li Lap-chi Iglesias, 5B	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Solo Verse Speaking



*Kristine Wong (left) and Surbeet Kaur of 3A giving their prize-winning performance of 'Cats' on our annual Speech Day.*

## Visit by Mongkok Police

On the afternoon of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2004, police from the Mongkok District Police Station came to our school to enhance the relationship between the school and the police through a series of sports games. Students and staff played in friendly matches with the police in basketball, table-tennis and volleyball.

The afternoon began with a formal welcome to the visitors through a series of short speeches and



performances. The cheerleading team did a fantastic job of welcoming the visitors gathered on the playground. Speeches from the Principal, Mr Tse, and Superintendent Wong Mui-kit preceded the group

photo of police, staff and students.

The friendly basketball, table-tennis and volleyball matches involved the



their amazing skills. All games were conducted in a spirit of friendly competition, highlighting the strong bond between the local police and SEKSS (WK).

The afternoon concluded with refreshments being served in the Student Activity Centre, the Principal and Police representative providing a vote of thanks from their respective staff. All of the school community hope that this good will between the local police and the school will continue for years to come. Many thanks must be given to the competitors and the friendly spectators for creating such a wonderful atmosphere for the afternoon.

Team A and Team B players from the respective representative teams. The staff also put together a dynamic team of competitors, dazzling the spectators with



## Talent Show

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2004, the students and staff excitedly

gathered in the school hall for the exciting conclusion to the school term - The School Talent Show. An electrified buzz warmed the hall as the student MCs opened the show. With an abundance of

performers seeking to join the show, Ms Lui had spent many days reviewing the different performances, finally selecting the best twelve acts to perform in front of the assembled crowd.

The judges comprised the Principal, Mr Tse, retired former Assistant Principal, Ms Cheung, as well as the two current Assistant Principals, Mr Lam and Ms Yuen. They were to

have a difficult task selecting the best performers in the band and dance categories.

Starting the show, a group of teachers



gathered on the stage, performing the traditional Christmas tune, 'Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer' to the frenzied student body. With staff manning musical instruments and others raising the roof with their singing voices, the Talent Show began in an exciting manner.

The band category started the student section of the Talent Show, with performers displaying outstanding talent for playing musical instruments, as well as crooning the audience with their singing. Amrik, Suraj, Sangeet, Prakash and Sansar were first

runners-up, Anup, Milan, Rupesh, Santa and Bishwas from S5 got loud cheers from the audience as they moved to the stage to receive their winners' prize.

In the dance



category, the crowd was once again witness to the wonderful cultural talent that exists at SEKSS (WK). Six acts wowed the audience, performing a range of both traditional and modern dance pieces. With much practice evident in the quality of the performances, and much planning obvious in the detailed and interesting costumes, the judges again had a difficult task of selecting the winners. Ultimately though, Gurpreet,

Amerjeet and Inderdeep from S5 and S4 were announced as the first runners-up, with Anjali, Sumitra, Shova, Maya and Sunita from S5 and S3 being declared the winners.

After a very short break in proceedings, students moved to their form class rooms to have a class party. Much planning was again obvious as students enjoyed national food from around the world, played games, and generally enjoyed each others' company to celebrate the Christmas holiday period.





## Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting and Eid by Mrs. Hussain

Muslims all over the world follow a religion called Islam which means peace, submission and obedience to God.

Islam is built on five pillars:

1. Faith in Allah and the Prophet hood of Hazrah Muhammad Mustafa S.W.A.;
2. Praying five times a day;
3. Fasting during the month of Ramadan;
4. Charity to less fortunate people; and

5. Hajor Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina once during one's life.

The month of Ramadan is the holiest of all months as the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammad S.W.A. during this month. Ever since the Prophet S.W.A. moved to Medina from Mecca, it has been obligatory for all Muslims to fast during the sacred month of Ramadan.

Fasting from dawn to dusk not only implies total refrain from food and drink but also from common evils such

as lying, bad mouthing, stealing. The idea is the need to learn self-control and also to realise the hardship and suffering of less fortunate people so that we can be helpful towards them and also thankful to God.

The month of Ramadan lasts for 29 or 30 days and culminates with special prayers and festivities. Ramadan is immediately followed by Id-ul-Fitr, which means the festival for breaking the fasts. It is an occasion of rejoicing and merriment for which we got a holiday on 15th November 2004.

## Diwali - Deepawali - Deepavali - Depawali by Mr. Kumar *Festival of Lights*

This is perhaps the most well-known of the Indian and Nepali festivals: It is celebrated throughout India and Nepal, as well as by Hindu communities throughout the world. Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and is also a festival of wealth and prosperity.

Homes around the world are lit with cheery earthen ware lamps (small oil lamps) called diyas and are placed around the home, in courtyards, verandahs, and gardens, as well as on roof-tops and outer walls to welcome the Goddess Lakshmi and friends and family. Some families use a powdered, colored chalk or wood



shavings to paint a Rangoli, vibrant designs on the threshold of each home.

The celebration of the festival is invariably accompanied by the exchange of sweets and the explosion of fireworks. As with other Indian festivals, Diwali signifies many different things to people across the country.

In northern India, Diwali celebrates Rama's homecoming, that is his return to Ayodhya after the defeat of Ravana and his coronation as king; in Gujarat, the festival honors Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth; and in Bengal, it is associated with the Goddess Kali. Everywhere, it signifies the renewal of life, and accordingly it is common to wear new



clothes on the day of the festival. Similarly, it heralds the approach of winter and the beginning of the sowing season.

The new accounting year begins with Diwali and the tradition is still followed by opening new accounting ledgers on this festive day and is also celebrated as New Year for

## Primary School Visit

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004, 140 students from Sir Ellis Kadoorie Primary School visited our school for a morning of activities and information sharing. Primary school students were dazzled by the enthusiasm and friendliness of their high school counterparts and much laughter could be heard throughout the morning session.

The Primary school students were initially met in the school car park, moving then to the



school hall for a welcoming speech from the school Principal, Mr Tse. After this, the large group was divided and taken through special rooms on a guided tour. The students visited the library, computer room, science laboratories, art room, and the design and technology area.

After the exciting tour around the school, the group of Primary students reassembled in the school hall

for an experience sharing session by teacher, parents and current SEKSS (WK) students. The sharing provided the primary students with a great insight into the secondary school, with many children very excited about the prospect of coming to attend school at West Kowloon.

The morning visit concluded with hockey, cricket and air cadet exhibitions on the playground. Thanks must go to the staff and students of the high school who organised such wonderful activities. The community of SEKSS(WK) looks forward to welcoming the primary students to the senior school community in the future.

## **Activities/Functions Held in November and December 2004**

Date	Activities	Organizing Bodies	Target Students (Level)
Nov.-Dec.04	Sex Education Months	Guidance, Discipline, CCEC	Whole school
01.11.04 to 02.05.05	“Making a Rainbow Life Program” – Support Scheme for Non-Chinese Speaking and Returnee Children	Guidance Committee	New Arrivals
1.11 – 9.11	Inter-House Football Competition	P. E. Department	S1– S5
2, 21.11.04	Inter-School Football Competition 2004/2005 (A Grade)	HKSSF	S1– S5
04.11.04	Interpersonal Relationship – Workshop	Guidance Committee	S1
6.11 – 5.12.04	Inter-School Volleyball Competition 2004/2005 (A Grade & B Grade)	HKSSF	S3 – S5
9.11– 6.12.04	Inter-School Basketball Competition 2004/2005 (B Grade)	HKSSF	S3 – S5
11. 11. 04	Visit to the University of Hong Kong	Careers Committee	S4, S5
13.11–12.12.04	Inter-School Cricket Tournament Senior	HK School Cricket Association	S2 – S5
14.11.2004	Cultural Exchange: Band Performance Nepalese New Year Fun Fair	Discipline Committee	S2 – S3
16.11.04	Visit to the ‘Body Parts’ Exhibition, HK Science Museum	Health Education Committee	S3, S4
17.11–3.12.04	Inter-House Volleyball Competition	P. E. Department	Whole school
18.11.04	“Examination Skills” – Workshop	Guidance Committee	S5
19.11.04	Visit to IVE (Chai Wan)	Careers Committee	S5
19, 22, 24.11.04	S3 Day Camp	Guidance Committee	S3
25.11.04	“Interview Skills” – Careers Talk	Careers Committee	S5
20.11.04	Temple Street Festival (Modern Dance & Oriental Dance performance)	Yaumatei Temple Street Association of Hawkers and Shop Operators	S2 – S5
20 – 21.11.04	Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps: No. 6 Wing Camp	Squadron 601 HKACC	S1 – S4
30.11.04	Workshop: “Say No to Drugs” & “ Say No to Cigarettes”	Guidance Committee	S3

### **School Picnic Day**

This is an annual school function that many students look forward to: the School Picnic. It is a time for fun and relaxation, for staying out from classrooms and getting close to nature, and for socializing with fellow schoolmates and teachers.

Our School Picnic Day fell on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2004 this year. Though the weather forecast said drizzles would be

expected, and there were chilly wind and clouds in the sky during lining-up

that morning, the day turned out to be just fine for a picnic, with a moderate temperature and no rain.

At around 8:30am, off we went, boarding various coaches excitedly, to our respective destinations: Tai Mei Tuk for S1, Aberdeen Country Park for S2 and S3, and Wong Shek Pier for S4 and S5.

Once we arrived in our picnic sites, we wasted no time to start doing things that we do not often do on normal school days: barbecuing, walking on nature trails, playing music, sharing food

and chatting with teachers, and so on. We also brought our cameras and took lots of pictures with one another! Look at our smiling faces to see how much we enjoyed ourselves.

When we had to start leaving at around 2pm, we had to wait for another year to have our next School Picnic.



#### **Advisor**

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