



# SIR ELLIS KADOORIE SECONDARY SCHOOL (WEST KOWLOON) PARENTS-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 15 JULY 2007

Address: No. 22 Hoi Fan Road, Tai Kok Tsui, West Kowloon, Hong Kong

## Chairlady's Message

It has been a great privilege for me to be the chairlady of SEKSS (WK) PTA in 2006-2007. Being the chairlady gave me wonderful experiences and immense opportunities to work closely with the teachers, students and parents of our school. This year, the PTA conducted many memorable activities, which involved the co-operation and participation of our parents, students and teachers.

The 15th AGM was well attended and resulted in the formation of the new PTA Executive Committee. Promotion of reading was chosen as the PTA's aim this year. The PTA collaborated with the school to organize a variety of reading activities and events to encourage students to read more widely. The readathon for the PTA raised approximately \$2,000, which will be used to purchase books for the school library. The PTA also sponsored prizes for a number of reading programmes and competitions run by the school.

The PTA outing in April 2007 enabled participants to engage in a plethora of sporting and leisure activities and also provided an opportunity to enhance home-school communication and cooperation. Next year, however, instead of the annual outing, the PTA will organize a "PTA Fun Day" at school.

A variety of diverse interest classes provided numerous occasions for parents, students and teachers to meet together to learn something new. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the parents for their time and effort in conducting the interest classes, which proved to be a tremendous success.

Sub-committees for school uniform and lunch-boxes were created and parents were invited to become members. In the 2007-2008 school year, S1 girls will wear the new winter uniform, which consists of a white turtleneck sweater and a newly designed navy blue pinafore. Mindful of the need for quality, value, taste and variety lunch box caterer, Lunch Republic, was selected by the lunch box sub-committee to provide students with tasty lunches in the next school year.

The PTA continued to offer financial support to the school by sponsoring a number of prizes and awards for academic achievement and also by providing sponsorship to the school sports teams and dance groups. This is only possible through the generosity of our parents. A donation drive during the 15th AGM resulted in a healthy increase in the PTA balance sheet.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all parents for their tremendous support and cooperation without which we could not have achieved so much. We look forward to your continued support so that the PTA can go from strength to strength. On behalf of the parents, I would like to thank our principal, Mr. Fung Kam-cheung, and all the teachers for their hard work in helping our children realize their potential. Let us all join hands – parents, students and teachers – to work together harmoniously for the betterment of the school.

Best regards,

Mrs. Gopalakrishnan Kanakalatha  
Chairlady



## A Message from the Principal

Let me recall the changes in our school that I mentioned in last year's PTA publication and talk about their recent developments.

Firstly, our school has already started to operate the *new 6-year secondary education* for the current **S.1 students**. We have been preparing them to study the Senior Secondary Curriculum. The newly offered subject this year, Integrated Humanities (IH), is beneficial to them as the syllabus is similar to that of Liberal Studies, which is the core subject in the Senior Secondary Curriculum. This year, S.1 students were encouraged to start keeping their own student profiles, which is also mandatory in the Senior Secondary Curriculum. In the coming year, both S.1 and S.2 students will study IH and keep student profiles. In addition, Putonghua is also planned for junior students.

Secondly, in order to meet the different needs of **S.4 students**, our school has widened the school curriculum with the introduction of one *Applied Learning (AL)* (formerly called Career Oriented Curriculum) course – "Hotel Operations" this year. S.4 students attended this course on Saturday mornings. They find the course very interesting and useful and their attendance rate is very high. Many of our current S.3 students have indicated their wish to join the Hotel Operations course and some other AL courses. Students who get a pass in an AL course will be regarded as having obtained a grade E in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE). The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (HKIVY) is our helpful partner in providing these courses for our students. Students who complete this course will have a very great chance to further their studies by taking diploma courses offered by the HKIVY. In the coming year, the school will also offer Chinese History as a subject option for S.4 students.

Thirdly, we will continue to strengthen the *Chinese curriculum* for our **Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS)** students. This year, we worked together with the Curriculum Development Institute of the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) to design a new Chinese curriculum for our NCS students. In the coming year, we'll further cooperate with the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong to design a Chinese curriculum to help our students to prepare for and take the GCSE Chinese. Additional Chinese lessons will be given to NCS students after school. Moreover, we have also applied for extra funding from the EMB to provide further support to NCS

students.

In the recent three years, there has been an increasing number of **local Chinese students** studying at our school. This trend is anticipated to continue in the coming few years. Therefore, we have actively revisited our *school vision* and made a proposal to the School Management Committee (SMC) at the last SMC meeting. The proposed school vision is, "Appreciating the cultural diversity of the students and reflecting on the changing demands of the modern world, the school aims at the holistic development of each individual student in order to enable them to become lifelong learners, and valuable members of the local and global community." This proposed school vision will be further discussed and finalized in the July SMC meeting.

This year our **school** continues to develop gradually. For the fifth consecutive year, our school has gained *positive value-addedness* in the best six HKCEE subjects. Our school is becoming a popular choice of secondary school as evidenced by over a hundred applications for our S.1 places in the school year 2007-2008. The results of this year's APASO (Assessment Program for Affective and Social Outcomes, a tool designed by the EMB to find out students' development in the affective and social domains) survey also show that the majority of our students have attached positively and actively to our school, above the norm for all secondary schools in Hong Kong.

Our **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)** consistently shows its enthusiasm in all school functions. I am most grateful to its *unfailing support* for our school. My utmost thanks must also go to our teachers who have been working conscientiously for our students. They spend much time and effort on providing guidance to help our students. Tutorial classes for all subjects are arranged every day for all students. In addition, parents are welcome to discuss with class teachers, subject teachers or guidance teachers about designing special programmes to help their children. Last but not least, my gratitude must be extended to all parents. I firmly believe that with close cooperation between the school and parents, our students will learn better and grow healthier. Because of your strong support, our school has reaped another successful year. Let's strive hard for the continued success of our students in the days ahead.

Mr. Fung Kam-cheung  
Principal



# 15th Parents-Teachers' Association Annual General Meeting

Shortly after 6 p.m. on 24 November 2006, the 15th PTA AGM got underway. The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Syed Jamil Raghbi, commenced proceedings by delivering the annual report for the year 2005-2006. This was followed by the confirmation of minutes of the 14th AGM. Honorary Secretary, Ms. Hung Fei-kei, then presented the statement of accounts.

Certificates were presented to committee members who had served during the year 2005-2006. Long-serving committee members, Mr. Raghbi and Mr. G. S. Batra, received souvenirs in recognition of their dedicated service to the school as PTA Chairman and Vice-chairman respectively.

Next, members voted to pass the proposed amendments to the PTA Constitution. Members then geared up for the elections: the PTA Executive Committee Parent-members Election, the SMC Parent Representative Election and the election of an Honorary Auditor for 2006-2007. Mrs. Gopalakrishnan, Mrs. Parkes, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Fok were elected to the committee. Mrs. Gopalakrishnan was elected as the SMC parent representative. Mr. G. S. Batra was elected as the Honorary Auditor.

The AGM rounded off with a donation drive, which had parents digging deep into their pockets. Their generous donation of approximately \$5,000 was greatly appreciated as it meant that the PTA had more funds to support the school and the students in many different ways.



Out-going Chairman, Mr. Raghbi, delivering the annual report 2005-2006



Casting the votes by secret ballot

# Lunch Box Catering Service



Yum! Yum!

Our students are growing adolescents and work and play hard five days a week from 08.30 until 15.30. Eating well – having a balanced and varied diet – is essential for good physical and mental health. Being able to have a nutritious meal at a reasonable price were the key elements in selecting the lunch box caterer for the school year 2007-2008.

The lunch box sub-committee short listed four prospective caterers and invited them to school on 11 June 2007. After lessons, students, parents and teachers proceeded to the Home Economics Room to sample tasty morsels from the various companies. The completed questionnaires about their preferences were analyzed and further discussions took place before finally deciding on "Lunch Republic". Why this caterer? Because variety is the spice of life! Choose your lunch from Delifrance, Chilli and Spice, Rice, McDonalds, Macys, El Cid. Eating lunch will never be boring again!

A taste of things to come from Lunch Republic



# PTA LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

A big thank-you to Paul Sum Truce of S5C for the new logo that adorns this newsletter. Paul's design encapsulates the essence of the PTA: parents, students and teachers from all walks of life, different cultures, nationalities and religions working together, striving for the betterment of the school for the students' benefit.

Paul was awarded his \$250 cash prize during the final assembly on 11 July 2007.

# PTA Executive Committee Members, 2006-2007

## Parent-members

| OFFICE HELD IN SOCIETY                | NAME                                |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chairlady                             | Mrs. Kanakalatha Gopalakrishnan     |
| Vice Chairlady                        | Mrs. Patricia Bernadette Mein Smith |
| Honorary Secretary                    | Mrs. Ann-Marie Parkes               |
| Honorary Treasurer                    | Ms. Cheng Lai Ling                  |
| Committee Member                      | Mrs. Gemma M. Oconer                |
| Committee Member                      | Mr. Eddy Fok                        |
| Committee Member                      | Mr. Ong Eng Hock                    |
| Committee Member                      | Ms. Suan Cordia Thompson            |
| Advisor to the PTA                    | Mr. Syed Jamil Raghbi               |
| Advisor to the PTA & Honorary Auditor | Mr. G. S. Batra                     |

## Teacher-members

| OFFICE HELD IN SOCIETY | NAME                   |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Vice-chairman          | Mr. Fung Kam-cheung    |
| Committee Member       | Ms. Yuen Ka-chung      |
| Committee Member       | Mrs. Tsang Wu Yuk-kwan |
| Honorary Secretary     | Ms. Josephine Chung    |
| Honorary Treasurer     | Ms. Hung Fei-kei       |
| Committee Member       | Ms. Sham Suk-ye        |
| Committee Member       | Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar |



# A Fun Day for All



Parents, students and teachers playing ping-pong



Watch this shot!



Making book marks



Let's tuck in!

This year, the PTA opted to do something new for its annual outing. Instead of the usual sightseeing tour the members decided to have an interactive day out. The intention was to give teachers, parents and students an opportunity to participate in various types of activities, which included handicrafts, karaoke, swimming, squash, pool, badminton, etc.

On Saturday, 28th April, two big coaches filled with eager participants made their way to the Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre. After a quick briefing session, everyone dispersed into small groups seeking out different activities as well as looking for the opportunity to snap the perfect picture for the photo-taking competition.

It was fun to watch people in the handicraft room deeply engrossed in producing cute key chains, string dolls and colourful bookmarks. Others preferred getting physical on the tennis court or polishing their skills on the archery range.

Still the day had more surprises ahead. After lunch everyone was invited for a game of "Bingo" and to take part in a lucky draw. Only a few left the hall without a prize. (Better luck next time!)

It was an absolutely successful day filled with good weather, good company and good fun in the peaceful, tranquil and picturesque Sai Kung environment.



Bingo!



It's my lucky day!



"American Idol" here we come!



Say, "Cheese!"

## New Winter Uniform for Girls

Dissatisfied with the current winter uniform (which they considered to be uncomfortable and old-fashioned), a number of girls made their grievances known to the PTA. Executive Committee members listened and agreed to do something about the winter uniform. A uniform sub-committee was formed. Members held meetings and deliberated over the new design, the items of clothing and the colour. Samples were made and evaluated. Further discussions ensued and more samples made.

The new winter uniform will be ready for all S1 girls to wear in the next school year. What does the uniform look like? It consists of a thin, white cotton turtleneck sweater with a school logo and a navy blue A-line pinafore with pleats.

## PTA Outing Photo-taking Competition

An adjudicating panel comprising parents and teachers selected the three winning photos from the entries it had received for the competition. Entries had to capture the spirit of the PTA outing.

First prize went to Aishwarya Gopalakrishnan; Mr. Kumar obtained second prize and Lousia Mein Smith was awarded third prize. Enjoy their photos!



First Prize: The Two Warriors



Second Prize: The six smiling beauties



Third Prize: Big baby!

## Best National Costume Competition

To enhance cultural awareness and harmony and to raise money for "Médecins Sans Frontières" the school held a National Costume Day on 5 June 2007. Students who had made a donation of \$5 or more could wear national costumes instead of school uniform. Many students came to school in beautiful national costumes of myriad colours. For an additional donation of \$2, students could enter the Best National Costume Competition.

Who had the best national costume? Aphyna Chairak (S4C) in sumptuous Thai dress was awarded first prize; Natsha (S4B), resplendent in her Indian costume, won second prize and Gurung Shusmita (S4B) captured third prize with her stunning Nepalese dress.

Prize winners were awarded framed photographs sponsored by the PTA. These mementos will preserve a memorable occasion for life.



First Prize: Aphyna in Thai costume



Second Prize: Natasha in Indian costume



Third Prize: Sushmita in Nepalese costume



Thank  
you  
teachers!

This year the school and the PTA took part in the 13th Parents-Also-Appreciate-Teachers Drive organized by the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Committee on Home-School Co-operation and the Sing Tao Daily. At the end of April 2007, postcards were sent home with students for their parents to write messages of appreciation to our teachers. Teachers were touched to read the kind words thanking them for their hard work and efforts, for their love and care.

During the final assembly of the school year, members of the PTA Executive Committee did the honours on behalf of all parents by presenting certificates of appreciation to each member of the teaching staff.

In return, our teachers thank our parents and students for their immense support and encouragement. By working together we can achieve bigger and better things!



# Parents, Students and Teachers Get Together



These coloured threads will become a beautiful bracelet

This year, for the first time, the PTA organized some fun craft and cooking classes for parents and students of SEKSS (WK).

A sub-committee was formed and with funding from a Home-School Co-operation Grant activities were planned, organized and successfully conducted.

First on the agenda was "Friendship Bracelets". This activity was well-attended and some beautiful bracelets were created from thread and beads. Given the success of the first session, a second session of "Friendship Bracelets" was conducted on 4 May 2007. This gave parents an opportunity to relax before meeting class teachers and receiving the "welcomed" or "dreaded" report sheets!

At the beginning of April, a group of parents, students and teachers met in the Home Economics room to learn to cook a traditional, steamed Chinese cake. All enjoyed the making and the tasting!

Chinese mini egg puffs and waffles attracted a lot of lunchtime attention as the delicious smells wafted around the school from the student activity centre where hoards of students tried making the delicacies and, of course, eating them. All reports were very positive — "interesting" and "tastes good"!!

Taste buds were titillated at the session about Chinese and South East Asian Food and Drink held on 4 May 2007. The 70 or so participants sampled culinary delights from China, India, Pakistan and Thailand.

English poetry brought together a select group to read and create some rhymes and listen to some songs. This took place in the school library after school.

Another literary highlight was a talk delivered by local author Ms. Wong Yin-ping. In the afternoon of 15 May 2007, Ms. Wong's lively and interactive presentation captivated and engaged the S1-S3 Chinese students.

Cooking scrumptious cauliflower fry and parripu vada introduced students and parents to some traditional South Indian cooking and, of course, eating!

On 9th July, a demonstration of flower arranging was held in the morning. Twenty participants listened and watched attentively in order put together a "Hello Kitty" basket arrangement of silk flowers. The time and effort were worthwhile as the end result was stunningly beautiful.

The interest classes generated a lot of interest and participation and what's more allowed parents, students and teachers to participate in fun activities and also to enhance communication.

The PTA will conduct more interest classes in the next school year so please come along to have fun and meet other parents and students of the SEKSS family.



Local author, Ms. Wong Yin-ping



Pour the mixture into the tin



"Next order coming up!"



South Indian vegetarian dish "parripu vada"

## A Summary of Interest Classes Conducted by the PTA

| Date          | Activity                           | Approx. no. of participants |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 March 2007  | Friendship bracelets               | 35                          |
| 2 April 2007  | Chinese cakes                      | 18                          |
| 30 April 2007 | Chinese mini egg puffs & waffles   | 60                          |
| 4 May 2007    | Friendship bracelets               | 40                          |
| 4 May 2007    | Chinese & S. E. Asian food & drink | 70                          |
| 10 May 2007   | English poems                      | 6                           |
| 15 May 2007   | Author talk                        | All S1-S3 Chinese classes   |
| 18 May 2007   | Indian cooking                     | 25                          |
| 9 July 2007   | Flower arranging                   | 20                          |



Rhyming words



Delicious Thai desserts

# Promotion of Reading

At the first Executive Committee meeting members decided that the PTA's main aim this year would be the promotion of reading. To do this, the PTA sponsored prizes for the English Extensive Reading Scheme to the tune of \$1,000. Under the scheme, students are encouraged to read as many books as possible during the school year and to keep a record of their reading. Book coupons of varying denominations were awarded to the students who had read the most.

The Most Widely Read News Competition, organised by the Promotion of Reading Committee, aimed at encouraging students to read the daily news. Interesting articles were posted on a display board in the school foyer. To enter the competition students had to read the articles and then vote for the one they found most interesting. Of the 56 entries there were eight prize-winners. An article about young people and drug abuse grabbed the most attention.

Reading sessions were conducted during May by two parents. Mrs. Patricia Mein Smith hosted an English poetry group and Ms. Suan Thompson conducted two reading sessions: "Capoeira" and matching headlines with pictures. The sessions were well-attended and feedback from students was positive.



Students and teachers reading together



What is "Capoeira"?

In collaboration with the Chinese Department and the Promotion of Reading Committee the PTA funded a talk delivered by local author, Ms. Wong Yin-Ping on 15 May. The students thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Wong's presentation, which aroused great interest and delighted the highly appreciative audience.

The Readathon for the PTA was organized to encourage students to read more extensively and to read for pleasure and also to raise funds for the PTA. From 7-10 May, 49 students from ten different classes collectively read a total of 9,679 minutes and raised a commendable \$1,908. The PTA will use this amount to buy books for the school library.

A note of thanks to parents and students who supported and assisted in the reading activities.

