



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

NEWSLETTER NO. 16 JULY 2008

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



Chairlady's Message

Yet another year has passed! Everyday, life goes on like a locomotive moving full steam ahead to reach its destination.

This year, for me, was indeed an unforgettable year as the Chairlady of SEKSS (WK) PTA. This year, the PTA organized several successful events and programmes to enhance home-school cooperation. The first event was the inaugural Fun Day, which was held on 19 January 2008. The Fun Day was a big "get together" of parents, students and teachers at school, all engaged in many diverse and interesting activities such as group games, board games, sports, circus tricks, karaoke, making clay flowers, t-shirt painting, henna tattoos, paraffin hand treatment, writing fai chun and, of course, the exciting game of "Deal or No Deal" followed by a lucky draw. Participants really enjoyed the day.

Interest classes were organized to foster relationships between parents, students and teachers while taking part in fun activities. This included handicraft classes such as cushion embroidery, making greeting cards and crystal key chains. Classes of a gastronomic nature comprised South East Asian food and drink, making waffles, masala dosa and Filipino dessert. The golf interest class scored a hole in one with sport enthusiasts.

Given the success of the Fun Day and the interest classes the PTA will organize them once again in the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the parents and teachers who helped to conduct the activities

and, of course, to the participants whose presence and enjoyment marked their success.

The "Principal's Meetings with Parents" was another successful programme.

In collaboration with the school the PTA organized eleven meetings with the principal during the school year. A special theme was presented at each meeting and participants were invited to take part in sharing sessions and "Q & A" sessions during which they could share their ideas and pose questions to the principal. My hearty thanks to our respected principal, Mr. Fung, for making the meetings very useful and successful.

I would also like to thank our assistant principals, Ms. Yuen Ka-chung and Mrs. Tsang Wu Yuk-kwan, and PTA Honorary Secretary, Ms. Josephine Chung, for their hard work and effort to make the PTA events and activities a great success. My thanks also go to the social worker, Ms. Wendy Wong, for her immense contribution in the "Principal's Meetings with Parents" and all the teachers for their kind support. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and guardians for their continued support, which provides the momentum for the PTA to strive to serve the school community.

Last but not least, I wish our school and its members — parents, students and teachers — a very bright future.

Mrs. Kanakalatha Gopalakrishnan
Chairlady

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our school has reaped **another fruitful year**. A number of events impressed me deeply in the school year 2007/2008, and I quote just a few here. On 29 January 2008, the Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, Mr. TSANG Chun-wah, John, visited our school. In the press release after his visit, Mr. Tsang commended the school management for the efforts made to improve the Chinese language standard of our students who come from different cultural backgrounds. On 18 March 2008, the Education Bureau (EDB) invited a parent (Mr. Eddy Fok), a teacher (Mrs. Yau Kwong Tse-wai), a student (Mohammad Ibrar, S.3F) and myself to take part in a half-hour live RTHK radio programme. We were interviewed to introduce the features of our school and the four of us gave a lively presentation to the public. On 2 May 2008, our school was invited by the Yau Tsim Mong District Office to watch the Olympic torch relay at Sha Tin Racecourse and more than 150 students attended this memorable occasion. Their good behaviour and attitude at the ceremony were highly commended by the organizer.

This year our **school** continued to develop gradually in all aspects. For the sixth consecutive year our school has gained positive value-addedness in the best six HKCEE subjects. For the first time we had Chinese students taking part in the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) at the S.3 level in 2007. Our S.3 students did very well in English with 92% of them achieving basic competency. This percentage is much higher than the average for all Hong Kong secondary schools. 77% of our Chinese students also achieved basic competency in Chinese and this percentage is also higher than the territory average. Moreover, compared with last year's result, our students' performance in Mathematics indicated a gradual improvement. It is encouraging to find that our school is becoming a more and more popular choice of secondary school. This year, 140 P.6 applicants competed for the 60 S.1 places available for the 2008-2009 school year, which, compared to last year, is a 35% increase in the number of applicants.

In order to meet the different needs of **S.4 students**, our school has continued to work with The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (HKIVE) to offer two EMI *Applied Learning (ApL)* Courses for Hotel Operation and Fashion & Image Design for our present S.4 students. Some Chinese students also joined different CMI ApL Courses. All these courses were held on Saturday mornings. This year, our S.5 students graduated from the Hotel Operation Course and 85% of them were granted a pass, which is equivalent to a grade E in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) as their attendance rates, assignments and assessments met the specified requirements. Some of the students who completed this course will further their studies in courses related to tourism and hotel operation offered by HKIVE.

Learning support for our **Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) students** is one of our major concerns. With the assistance of the Curriculum Development Institute of the EDB and the Faculty of Education, HKU, the Chinese curriculum has been redesigned for our NCS students. Chinese (GCSE) curriculum is offered to NCS students.

In this school year, additional Chinese lessons were conducted for NCS students after school. We also adopted small-class teaching for English, Mathematics, Integrated Science and Integrated Humanities for S.1 NCS students.

We continue to prepare actively for the arrival of the **New Senior Secondary (NSS) Curriculum** in 2009/2010. Many teachers have joined courses related to the NSS Curriculum. Learning and teaching facilities have been enhanced. For example, multi-media projectors have been installed in more classrooms; our school intranet has been upgraded with more learning and teaching functions; and several rooms have been renovated and installed with air-conditioners so that more rooms will be available to conduct the various classes offered to cater for students' diversified choice of subjects under the NSS Curriculum.

In the past few years, we have been working hard to encourage **love and harmony** among our students. Students are always asked to love everyone and everything at school. Showing love is to adopt a caring and forgiving attitude to the people and things around us. To develop harmony at school, students are asked to show respect to and appreciation of everyone's values, customs, languages, history, etc. Generally speaking, we are pleased to find that our students live together, learn together and play together happily and harmoniously at school.

Our Parents-Teachers' Association (PTA) has consistently shown its enthusiasm in all school functions. This year the PTA organized a number of activities for parents, students and teachers. I am most grateful to Mrs. GOPALAKRISHNAN Kanakalatha, the Chairlady of our PTA, who has rendered unfailing support to our school. My utmost thanks must also go to the other executive members of the PTA who have worked conscientiously for our students. Last but not least, my gratitude must be extended to all parents and teachers for their continued support. I believe that with close cooperation between parents and teachers, our students will grow healthier and learn better. As stated in our school vision, we will strive for the holistic development of our students so that they become lifelong learners and valuable members of the local and global community.

Mr. FUNG Kam-cheung
Principal



16th Annual General Meeting cum Parents' Night

Held in the evening of 23 November 2007, the 16th Annual General Meeting started punctually at 18:30. To commence, the Principal, Mr. Fung Kam-cheung, extended a warm welcome to all before handing over to PTA Chairlady, Mrs. Kanakalatha Gopalakrishnan, who delivered the PTA annual report for 2006–2007. Mrs. Gopalakrishnan concluded by thanking parents for their tremendous support during the past year and remarked that their generosity of both time and money had been greatly appreciated and had benefited numerous students. The Chairlady invited parents to participate in a voluntary donation drive. The outcome? Nearly \$2,500 was raised in a matter of minutes!



PTA Executive Committee Members
2007–2008

After the formalities of the confirmation of the minutes of the 15th AGM and the report on the statement of accounts, certificates of appreciation were presented to members who had served on the Executive Committee in 2006–2007 and also to Honorary Members, Mr. Syed Jamil Raghbi and Mr. G. S. Batra.

Teacher-members appointed to serve on the Executive Committee in 2007–2008 and parent-members — Mrs. Gopalakrishnan and Ms. Suan Thompson — to serve a second term of office on the Executive Committee— were introduced.

The “election” then got underway. Members learned that there were six parent-member vacancies on the Executive Committee and six candidates. The candidates were introduced and each one, in turn, addressed the assembly.

They were then endorsed, en masse, to the Executive Committee. Next, members endorsed Mr. G. S. Batra's nomination to the post of Honorary Auditor for 2007–2008. Finally, the parents present at the AGM endorsed Mr. Eddy Fok's nomination as the School Management Committee Parent Representative.

The 16th AGM came to a successful conclusion after which parents enjoyed light refreshments before dispersing to the various classrooms to meet class teachers and to collect report sheets for the first term test. The evening provided a wonderful occasion to foster dialogue between parents and teachers.

PTA Executive Committee Members 2007–2008

Parent-members	
Office held in the PTA	Name of parent-member
Chairlady	Mrs. Kanakalatha Gopalakrishnan
Vice Chairlady	Mrs. Patricia Mein Smith
Honorary Secretary	Mrs. Eva Wong
Honorary Treasurer	Ms. Cheng Lai Ling
Committee Member	Mr. Chan Kam Wing
Committee Member	Mr. Chang Ching David
Committee Member	Mr. Fok Chun Hung
Committee Member	Ms. Suan Thompson
Teacher-members	
Office held in the PTA	Name of teacher-member
Vice Chairman	Mr. Fung Kam-cheung (Principal)
Honorary Secretary	Ms. Josephine Chung
Honorary Treasurer	Ms. Hung Fei-kei
Committee Member	Ms. Yuen Ka-chung (Assistant Principal)
Committee Member	Mrs. Tsang Wu Yuk-kwan (Assistant Principal)
Committee Member	Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar
Committee Member	Mr. Tam Chi-hin



Presentation of certificates of appreciation

家長心聲

Mr. Eddy Fok

自從五年前由加拿大回流香港後，在我的家庭中轉變了很大，尤其是對我的兩位女孩子而言，在讀書上學和生活環境，對她們的影響十分大，因為香港是一個繁盛的國際金融中心，生活上環節又急又快，相對在加拿大生活的格式通通都不同。

如何去安排她們讀書真是一個難題，我負擔不起那麼貴的國際學校的學費，或托J讀全統中文學校，因為她們在加拿大時都很少接觸中文字，聽和寫中文字不懂，當時我就去教育局求助，他們了解了我的情況後，便推薦我張兩位女孩子送去銅鑼灣的官立嘉道理爵士小學上學，我太太最為擔心，怕她們不適應校園生活，數月後我們感覺到她們很適應上學環境，原因都是學校的老師特別照顧，而且同學們互相幫助，官立嘉道理爵士小學是一間以英語教學的小學，主要為南亞裔或回流華裔學生入讀。

我兩位女孩Helen & Edna從小學畢業便升上官立嘉道理爵士中學，基本學校的學生多來自非華語社群，各有

不同的宗教及文化背景，構成學校多元文化的特色。當我的家庭和工作都穩定下來，我便很想將我空閑的時間去幫助別人，所以參加了家長教師會，另外得到家長們、老師們和校長支持加入了學校管理委員會，與校方保持緊密聯繫。共同提升學校的優質校園環境和學生學業水平，更加為學生提供多元文化的支援服務。

回憶最初加入家長教師會時，感覺很特別，因為家長教師會其中家長成員是來自不同族裔有印度、巴基斯坦和新西蘭等。在語言方面大家都是以英語來溝通，大家本著為學校的學生，關注他們長遠的升學和將來融入社會工作的問題。最難忘的就是認識了幾位家長S.J. Raghbi和 G.S. Batra。他們對學校付出真是不少，作為家長代表真是要再次感謝他們的貢獻。其實家長教師會與學校舉辦了不少活動，有網球訓練班，我作為一位網球教練，十分之開心去教導同學們打網球，更意外地從體育精神激發了幾位同學的學習成就感，見到他們每次拿獎和進步，內心非常安

Principal's Meetings With Parents

To foster greater home-school cooperation and to provide more opportunities for parents to meet the principal, the PTA organized and held an inaugural programme, “Principal's Meetings With Parents”. So as to make it possible for the greatest number of parents to attend, the meetings were held on different days of the week and at different times.



“Welcome, parents!”

Each month, parents were invited to attend a meeting with the principal, Mr. Fung Kam-cheung. The meetings, hosted by the PTA Chairlady, Mrs. Kanakalatha Gopalakrishnan, allowed parents to meet the principal and also the two assistant principals, Ms. Yuen Ka-chung and Mrs. Tsang Wu Yuk-kwan. Parents also had the opportunity to participate in “Question and Answer” sessions, sharing sessions and discussions. A special theme was presented at each meeting. School social worker, Ms. Wendy Wong, and guest speakers delivered some stimulating and inspiring talks.



Thank you for a great presentation!

All in all, the turn-out rate was encouraging and the meetings proved to be productive and fruitful and certainly did allow parents to have direct contact with the school on numerous occasions, so achieving the aim of fostering greater home-school cooperation.

Summary of Meetings

Date	Time	Theme
21/9/2007	14:00–15:30	• School Intranet
26/10/2007	16:30–18:00	• 13 Principles to Guiding a Child
23/11/2007	16:45–17:45	• Parenting an Adolescent
19/1/2008	09:00–10:00	• NSS Curriculum
1/2/2008	08:30–16:30	• Discussion and Sharing Session
29/2/2008	15:00–16:00	• Latest Developments At School
20/3/2008	14:00–15:30	• Parent-Child-Teacher Relay
18/4/2008	09:00–11:00	• Identifying Learning Difficulties • Help Your Children Improve Their Language Skills
2/5/2008	18:00–19:00	• Applied Learning • Recent Developments At School
5/6/2008	16:30–18:00	• How To Help Your Child Prepare For Examinations • Timetabling During the Post-examination Period • Criteria for Promotion to a Higher Form
4/7/2008	16:00–17:30	• Summer Vacation Activities for Students • School Developments in 2008–2009

慰。除了家長教師會成員，亦有其它關心學校的家長，共同去參與午膳小組，為學校去一齊選擇午餐供應商。負責午餐供應商一切事宜的老師，Ms. Chung Lai Mui 真是照顧週到，令家長們安心地工作，不用為子女們的午膳來煩惱。家長教師會每年為學校舉辦不同活動，有鼓勵學生閱讀比賽、遠足旅行……等等。我在家長教師會已有四年，感覺我們與學校非常有活力，提供不同活動讓家長和學校聯繫起來。最重要的就是我們學校的校長馮錦祥，他的創新精神和確實的態度，還有校長每月都舉辦不同活動的工作坊，與家長一起提出討論和有建設性建議給學校。總結來說，學校是我們子女其中一個成長的家庭，有良好的教育，當然有富經驗的老師們，大家好像一家人去照顧我們的學生。我希望家長們、老師們和同學們一齊來支持這個大家庭，就是我們感到自豪的學校，令學校發光發亮。多謝！



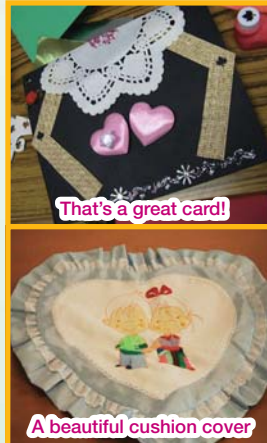
PTA Interest Classes

Following the huge success of the interest classes conducted in the last school year, the PTA decided to continue to run interest classes this year. With a generous grant from the Home-School Cooperation Unit parents, who gave willingly of their time and expertise, conducted nine interest classes. All school stakeholders — parents, students and teachers — were invited to take part. Participation at each class was extremely good and on occasions surpassed expectations. The interest classes focused on handicraft and cooking, which meant that participants not only had fun but also got to enjoy the fruits of their labour: beautiful greeting cards, embroidered cushion covers and crystal key chains; delicious waffles and Filipino dessert; and spicy South East Asian food and masala dosa. For the more active among us, a session of golf allowed us to pick up or brush up on golf techniques.

Needless to say that the interest classes provided ample opportunities for parents, students and teachers to get to know one another better by engaging in an enjoyable activity in an informal setting. If you weren't able to join us this year, why don't you come next year when there will be more PTA interest classes?

PTA Interest Classes Conducted in 2008

Date	Interest Class
29 February	Waffles
20 March	Greeting Cards
14 April	Cushion Cover Embroidery
28 April	Crystal Key Chains
2 May	South East Asian Food & Drink
30 May	South East Indian Snacks: Masala Dosa
8 July	Filipino Dessert
8 July	Golf
8 July	Demonstration: Making Silver Jewellery



Lunch Box Sub-committee

Yet again, the lunch box sub-committee convened to select a lunch box caterer for the school year 2008–2009. Four prospective catering companies were short listed and after much deliberation the sub-committee decided upon Ausino. There were many points in Ausino's favour;

- FDA certificate from the USA government;
- Good track record;
- Located in Tai Kok Tsui;
- Wholesaler of raw ingredients so lunchboxes are competitively priced;
- Varied menu with four different choices per day, including a vegetarian option;
- Menu in Chinese and English versions;
- Very convenient payment methods; and
- Efficient refund procedure (in case of absence).

Members of the sub-committee briefed committee members at the 4th Executive Committee meeting held on 20 June 2008. Satisfied with their choice of caterer, the committee unanimously endorsed Ausino as the school's lunch box provider in the coming school year.

Fund Raising Events

The PTA would not be able to subsidize and sponsor events, programmes and activities for the school and its students without funding. Funds are available from different sources:

- 1) the collection of an annual subscription fee of \$30 per family;
- 2) Home-School Cooperation grants;
- 3) voluntary donations; and
- 4) fund raising events.

This year, the PTA organized a Dress Casual Day on 21 December 2007 and a Readathon in May 2008, which raised \$8,445.70 and \$2,346.40 respectively. Funds raised in this way are ploughed back to school for the benefit of students.

The PTA sponsors a number of important school functions such as Orientation Day, Speech Day, Learning Celebrations, Parents' Day, Parents' Night and also subsidizes numerous prizes, awards and incentives for students.

The PTA Executive Committee reiterates its hearty thanks to all parents for their invaluable support and contribution, which is paramount to the success of the association, the school and most importantly the students.

What it means to me to be a PTA Executive Committee member

I have been a teacher-member of the PTA Executive Committee for the last four years and have really enjoyed being part of it. At PTA meetings, teacher-members contribute their ideas and views and cooperate to offer their support for the activities organized by the PTA. Being in the PTA has given me enormous opportunities to know and understand issues from a parent's point of view and to develop a harmonious relationship with parents.

Our school PTA is getting more active; it plays a major role in organizing various activities and provides a good platform for parents to offer their suggestions and opinions. This year, as in previous years, parents have continued to show their support for the PTA. It is through their generous contribution of both time and donations that the PTA has flourished. With increased funding, the PTA has sponsored and subsidized many school events and functions, and prizes and awards for students.

I understand that parents are very busy in Hong Kong and they cannot always spare time to pay a visit to school. Parents could make use of the PTA as a channel of communication by voicing their suggestions and opinions via the PTA Executive Committee.

I look forward to serving on the PTA Executive Committee as long as my service is required by the school, and will always strive to contribute meaningfully to the PTA in order to make it a stronger force at school.

Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar



PTA Fun Day



What a fun day!

“Deal! Deal! Deal!” “No deal! No deal!” chanted the participants. Where were they? At a casino in Macau? No! In the school hall thoroughly enwrapped in a gripping game of “Deal or No Deal”, which was the climax to a long, exhausting day of activities organized in the first ever PTA Fun Day.

Held on Saturday, 19 January 2008, the Fun Day brought together 120 parents, students and teachers with the aim of enhancing communication between all parties by participating in a variety of leisure activities and by having lunch together. Funded by a Home-School Cooperation grant, participation in the Fun Day was free of charge and included all activities, lunch and beverages.

The day kicked off with group games. In the four-legged relay race, groups comprising two parents, two students and two teachers had to work in unity to race from end of the school hall to the other and back again. Next, was the hula-hoop competition followed by the paper airplane competition in which mixed groups had to fold a paper airplane on which was written a short sentence expressing a view about home-school cooperation. Each paper plane was flown with the one flying the furthest declared the winner. Small prizes were awarded to the winners of the different games.

Activity sessions were arranged in the morning and the afternoon. For sports enthusiasts, there were various ball games including basketball, volleyball, football, badminton, table tennis and golf. Other games included board games, chess, darts and circus tricks. Gourmets enjoyed making and eating waffles, crispy fried Chinese sesame dumplings and turnip cake. Handicraft activities such as tee-shirt painting, making clay flowers and writing fai chun (in Chinese, English, Hindi and Urdu) were on offer to participants with a creative flair. Those in need or in want of a spot of pampering could avail themselves to a paraffin hand treatment before having a beautiful, intricate henna tattoo on their hands. And while this was being done, parents singing their hearts out in the karaoke serenaded them!

“Deal!” “No deal!” Participants quickly became caught up in this game of chance but, unfortunately, unlike the game on TV, there was no one million dollar jackpot! Prizes, although much more modest, were still sought after especially the boxes of chocolates and the restaurant and shopping vouchers. Prizes such as cleaning products were certainly useful in the run-up to the Lunar New Year!

Time flies when you’re enjoying yourself and this was certainly the case on the Fun Day. The hands of the clock showed 4p.m. and there were still a number of participants in the school hall playing badminton and aspiring to be Hong Kong’s next Canto pop star! The PTA Fun Day proved to be an enjoyable day and managed to achieve its aim. With this in mind, the PTA will hold another Fun Day next year so be sure to join in (again)!



Hula-hoop champion, Ms. Chan



4-legged race



Writing fai chun



Making crispy fried sesame dumplings



Delicate clay flowers



Great designs!



Henna tattoo

Hong Kong Our Home — Lyrics Writing Competition

To instill a greater sense of belonging to Hong Kong, which is “home” to hundreds of SEKSS (WK) students from near, far and wide (Hong Kong, China, India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, Venezuela, Congo, Japan, England, New Zealand and a few other countries), and to promote the theme — Home Kong Our Home — the PTA has embarked upon a music project. The project will not only tap into students’ musical talent and creative flair but it will also give them the opportunity to express what living in Hong Kong means to them. Students are invited to write lyrics to an existing tune and to submit their entries in the school year 2008–2009. Winning entries will “record” their masterpieces to CD and will also win attractive prizes sponsored by the PTA.

Lyrics Writing Competition



**HONG KONG
OUR HOME**

Submit your song!
Any enquiry, contact Mr. Tam.

Organized by: SEKSS(WK) PTA

