



# SIR ELLIS KADOORIE SECONDARY SCHOOL (WEST KOWLOON)

## PARENTS-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 17 JULY 2009

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

### Chairman's Message

It's now been five years since I've been in the PTA and the SMC to enhance the learning environment and communication between parents and the school. There have been many ups and downs but we have overcome them.

As the PTA Chairman this year, many activities were arranged. On 27 February there was the Fun Day, which included many activities like karaoke, tennis, various ball games and darts. Many students enjoyed the karaoke session immensely. There were also a number of fun games played by parents, students and teachers together.

Interest classes were also organized by the PTA to enhance parent-school relationships. Some of the classes were computer DIY, guitar lessons and handicraft such as making soap flower baskets. Many of these classes were a great success and the PTA hopes to continue arranging these wonderful activities next year.

Many of these activities would not be possible were it not for cooperation between the PTA, the teachers and the school principal. I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents and teachers who have made these activities possible by helping to arrange and conduct them.

I would also like to mention the principal's meetings that parents attended and discussed school matters and shared ideas to enhance the learning environment at school. I thank the principal, Mr. Fung Kam-cheung, for making the meetings such a success. I would also like to thank the assistant principals, Ms. Yuen Ka-

chung and Mrs. Tsang Wu Yuk-kwan, and PTA executive committee teacher-members, Ms. Josephine Chung, Ms. Hung Fei-kei, Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar and Mr. Tam Chi-hin, for their participation and support for PTA events. My thanks also go to Mr. Lau Wing-lok for his assistance in making arrangements for the PTA tennis-training course. I would like to say a big "thank you" to my fellow parents on the executive committee who have all contributed in one way or another to PTA functions and activities. Let's also not forget to thank all teachers and parents for their cooperation and support.



Mr. Eddy Fok  
Chairman

Lastly, all of us in this region have gained valuable experience during a period of economic and emotional upheaval, as we strive to get back on our feet after the global crisis. We are all aware that the world is now passing through a serious economic slowdown, which has been described as a financial tsunami. Global trade has declined because of falling demand, and manufacturers have had to downsize or even shut down their operations completely. But, as an old saying puts it: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going". It means we should not lose confidence as we sail through turbulent waters and should strive to create a better future. We have always believed – and we remain convinced – that this is the right strategy for our continued success in the future and the achievement of our vision for 2010.



### A Message from The Principal

**Home-school cooperation** continues to be a major focus of our school this year. As in previous years, we have frequently been using channels such as *the student handbook, parents' letters, telephone calls, the school intranet, inviting parents to join school functions and monthly meetings with the principal.* This year, I posted my message on the school homepage to outline my vision for SEKSS(WK). I hope parents were able to understand more about the direction of the school under my headship after reading my message. Parents who haven't read it, please do go to our school homepage and have a look. This year we have also started to issue *parents' letters* regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Parents, please watch out for these two days and ask your children to give you the parents' letter. If they forget to give you the letter, you can still access it through our *school intranet.* Here I would like to remind you that at the beginning of this school year, every parent was issued with an account and password to access information such as parents' letters, students' homework and examination syllabi posted on our school intranet.

Our *Parents-Teachers Association (PTA)* has also contributed a lot to promote home-school cooperation. The executive committee of our PTA has run a number of functions for members, and some parents have spent much time and effort on running interest classes for parents and students. In this newsletter, I am sure you can find a full account of the functions that have been organized by the PTA this year.

With our hard work in the past several years, home-school cooperation and communication have been greatly improved. In each of the past few school years, about 150 parents were selected randomly to answer questions about the school. Their views on home-school cooperation is one of the aspects that parents are asked about. Parents were asked to give their opinions by rating each statement from 1 to 5. The following table shows the ratings and their denotations.

Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Opinion	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree

The results of the stakeholders' survey conducted this school year (2008/2009) shows that the mean of 5 items ((1) to (5)) are 4 (Agree) or near 4. Please see the table on the right. By comparing the survey results of the last three school years, we find that there is a rising mean for 4 items ((2), (3), (5) and (7)). All these indicate that home-school cooperation in our school is generally good and there has been continuous improvement in home-school cooperation in the past three years. These results are really encouraging and we are committed to working harder for further enhancement.

### Results of Stakeholders' Survey

Parents' views on home-school cooperation	Mean (Average)		
	2006/07 School Year	2007/08 School Year	2008/09 School Year
(1) The school often keeps parents informed of school affairs and development.	3.82	3.98	3.90
(2) There are sufficient channels, such as parents' day, the school website, school post box, etc., for me to express my views to the school.	3.47	3.65	3.90
(3) The school is willing to listen to the views of parents.	3.66	3.83	3.90
(4) The Parents-Teachers Association can facilitate communication between the parents and the school.	3.75	3.93	3.90
(5) The school often invites parents to participate in school activities.	3.78	3.91	4.00
(6) I actively participate in the activities organized by the school and/or Parents-Teachers Association.	3.21	3.30	3.30
(7) I have a good relationship with the school.	3.58	3.68	3.70

The results also show that on average item (6) has the lowest rating, i.e. some parents do not participate actively in the activities organized by the school or the PTA. I sincerely hope that more parents will show their support for the school by joining more activities in the coming years. I believe that through close home-school cooperation, we can help our students increase their sense of achievement, to develop their positive attitudes, to improve their classroom behaviour, to have better attendance and to enhance their willingness to do homework.

This year the school has also brought about the provision of new/replacement furniture and equipment items. These include the installation of multimedia projectors and a wireless microphone system in classrooms, a new sound system in the school hall for students' performance, smart boards in laboratories and setting up a student corner with sofas and decorative plants in one corner of the foyer for students to rest, read or chat. Here I would like to let all parents know that in the coming new school year, our school will have a new tuck shop to provide drinks, snacks and lunchboxes for students.

Our Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) has consistently been very keen to give support to all school functions. I am most grateful to Mr. FOK Chun-hung, the Chairman of our PTA, who has rendered prolonged support to our school. My whole-hearted thanks must also go to the other executive committee members of the PTA who have worked collaboratively for the benefit of our students.

Last but not least, my thanks must be extended to all parents, teachers and staff of our school for their continued support. I believe that with close cooperation between parents and teachers, our students will grow in good health and learn better. Let's work together to help our students become lifelong learners and valuable members of the local and global community

FUNG Kam-cheung  
Principal



## Message from the SMC Parent Representative

By working together parents, guardians and teachers strive to provide the best education for our children. A difference can be made through collaboration on all sides, with commitment and willingness to help key to our children's success at school. Parental participation and involvement in school functions and activities are important to establish and nurture good home-school cooperation.

As one of the elected parent representatives of the School Management Committee, I feel obliged to have an open mind and to share parents' views, ideas and suggestions. You are cordially invited to send me your opinions, which I will make known on your behalf at SMC meetings. I can be contacted by:

- Email: khim97@yahoo.com
- Telephone: 6357-4022

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Mr. Khimding Ran Bahadur*



## Principal's Meetings with Parents

Following the success of the principal's meetings with parents, the PTA continued to organize similar meetings in the 2008-2009 school year. In total eight meetings were arranged, each one with a different theme. Each meeting concluded with a question and answer session, which provided the perfect forum for parents to voice their opinions and / or concerns and to seek answers to any questions they might have. All in all, parents found the meetings useful and cherished the ample opportunities provided by the PTA for close dialogue with the school management and, of course, to meet other parents.



### Summary of Meetings

Date	Time	Theme
26/09/2008	16:00-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Secondary Curriculum</li> <li>• Introduction to and use of school intranet</li> <li>• Extra-curricular activities</li> </ul>
24/10/2008	16:00-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Guidance &amp; Counselling</li> </ul>
14/11/2008	16:00-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Senior Secondary Education</li> <li>• Attitudes towards handling children's assessment results</li> </ul>
22/01/2009	14:30-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future paths of S5 and S3 students</li> </ul>
27/02/2009	13:30-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know more about the drug-abusing habits of adolescents</li> </ul>
27/03/2009	15:00-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How parents can prevent children from abusing drugs</li> </ul>
24/04/2009	17:30-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing session</li> </ul>
29/05/2009	15:00-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion criteria</li> <li>• Your children and the Internet</li> </ul>

## Parents' Night cum 17th PTA Annual General Meeting

The end of 2008 saw the all-important presidential election in the USA, but on 14 November 2008 on the other side of the world at 22 Hoi Fan Road in West Kowloon in Hong Kong two elections, albeit modest ones, were due to take place – the School Management Committee Parent Representative Election and the PTA Executive Committee Parent-members' Election.

Shortly after 18:30 the principal, Mr. Fung Kam-cheung, extended a warm welcome to the parents gathered in the school hall for the important events and thanked them for their presence and their support. Proceedings commenced with the PTA Chairlady's report for 2007-2008 in which Mrs. Gopalakrishnan highlighted the PTA's work and contribution to the school. Certificates and souvenirs were presented and then the elections got underway.

For each election, candidates were introduced and invited to address the assembly. Electors then cast their votes by secret ballot for the candidates of their choice. Just after 20:30, the results were announced. Receiving 56 votes to Mr. Sakhujia's 23 votes, Mr. Khimding was declared the SMC parent representative. The race for the PTA Executive Committee proved to be a tight one as there were just a few votes separating the four parents who were elected: Ms. Sharma Kusum (106 votes), Mrs. Rosalie Nicomedes and Mr. Desmond Tsang (96 votes each) and Mr. Khimding (91 votes).

Parents' Night cum PTA AGM demonstrated the true spirit of home-school cooperation. The parent-teacher conferences provided a wonderful opportunity for dialogue, and parental support for the school and our students was evident in the voluntary donation campaign that raised a total of \$2,660.



### PTA Executive Committee Members for 2008-2009

Post	Name of Parent / Teacher
Chairman	Mr. Eddy Fok
Vice Chairlady	Ms. Jenny Cheng
Vice Chairman	Mr. Fung Kam-cheung
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Chan Kam Wing Ms. Hung Fei-kei
Honorary Secretary	Ms. Sharma Kusum Ms. Josephine Chung
Committee Member	Mr. Chang Ching Mr. Khimding Ran Bahadur Mrs. Rosalie Nicomedes Mr. Desmond Tsang Ms. Yuen Ka-chung Mrs. Tsang Wu Yuk-kwan Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar Mr. Tam Chi-hin



# PTA Interest Classes

Wow! What a busy year it has been with so many interest classes taking place much to the delight and appreciation of participants that included parents, teachers and students. Our parent volunteers certainly had their work cut out and were kept on their toes with regular visits to school to run the interest classes that included sport, music, technology, handicraft and cookery. Participants were certainly spoiled for choice!

Mr. Tam Chi-hin and his music protégés strummed to their hearts' delight playing C major primary chords, folk songs and Indian songs in the guitar classes. During five sessions of tennis training, the coach – Mr. Eddy Fok – put eight budding tennis players through their paces as they practised forehand, backhand, volley and serve. Five computer DIY classes enabled parents to learn more about computer basics, hardware and software. PTA vice-chairlady, Ms. Jenny Cheng, conducted three handicraft classes during which enthusiastic and persevering participants made beautiful embroidered telephone pouches, soap flower baskets and bead fruit baskets. Mrs. Nicomedes' delicious Filipino dessert tickled our taste buds and had participants endeavouring to reproduce the same mouthwatering dish at home.

All in all, it was a big thumbs up for the interest classes which fostered closer home-school cooperation by enhancing communication between parents, teachers and students.

## PTA Interest Classes conducted in 2009

Date	Interest Class
27 March	Computer DIY
24 April	Computer DIY
28 April	Embroidered mobile telephone pouches
5 May	Soap flower baskets
8 May	Computer DIY & guitar class
12 May	Bead fruit baskets
13 May	Tennis training
15 May	Computer DIY & guitar class
20 May	Tennis training
22 May	Computer DIY & guitar class
27 May	Tennis training
29 May	Guitar class
3 June	Tennis training
3 July	Filipino dessert

Computer DIY



Guitar class

Embroidered telephone pouches



Making bead ornaments



Making soap flower baskets



Beautiful fruit baskets



The finished product



# Photo-taking Competition – HONG KONG OUR HOME

“Hong Kong our Home” was adopted as this year’s theme to develop the students’ sense of belonging to Hong Kong. The school population comprises many different nationalities with each one of us being different but, despite this, there is one unifying factor that brings us all together. What is it? We all live in Hong Kong, which is our home. But just exactly what does “Hong Kong our Home” mean?

The photo-taking competition invited school stakeholders to take photos that represented their feelings about the theme and to submit them, with accompanying captions in English. Judging was tight, with just two points separating the first and second prize-winners. Third prize (a 4GB USB memory stick) went to Mrs. Li Shuk Ping and second prize (a colour inkjet printer) and first prize (an iPod shuffle) were awarded to Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar and Ms. Ship Wu respectively.

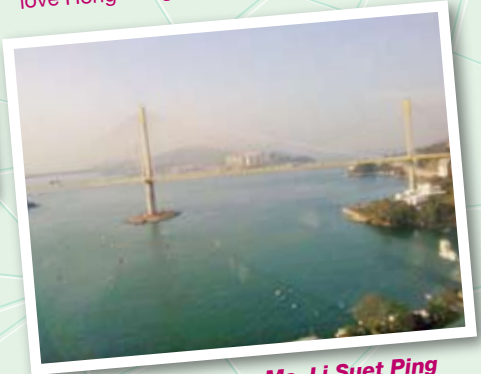
Thank you to all participants for submitting some wonderful snaps and congratulations to the prize-winners. Enjoy some beautiful photos that convey the message “Hong Kong our Home”!



**First prize-winner: Ms. Ship Wu**  
A pair of hands put on the sun, which means we love Hong Kong.



**Second prize-winner: Mr. Prasad Manoj Kumar**  
A place where family feels secure,  
Peaceful and happy.  
Peace in our heart, peace in our home,  
Peace in the whole world.  
Happiness all around  
Hong Kong our home.



**Third prize-winner: Ms. Li Suet Ping**  
The Pearl of the East

# Learning Celebrations cum PTA Fun Day



Pop the balloons!



Ready, set, go!



Water rockets



Educational games



Henna tattoos

In the morning of 27 February 2009, the sun glimmered faintly and then burst through the frail grey clouds declaring victory and setting the stage for an important function held by the school and the PTA: Learning Celebrations cum PTA Fun Day. The school premises were spick and span ready to receive guests and parents who had come to celebrate the students’ learning in a wide range of disciplines encompassing academic subjects, sport and performing arts.

The day kicked off with the passing out parade of the Hong Kong Air Cadets Corps and a prize presentation ceremony. This was followed by an hour of fun and excitement, which saw parents, teachers and students rushing around the basketball courts in an attempt to be amongst the first to guess the lucky numbers and secure a prize. The competitive spirit continued in the team games that ensued!

The afternoon saw students buzzing around the school campus trying their hands at all manner of activities that included educational games, fun games, ball games, testing water rockets, making photo frames, karaoke, henna hand tattoos and many more. Active participation not only brought enjoyment but was also a way to collect chops, which could be redeemed for delicious prizes at the international food fair.

What was the verdict? A roaring success thanks to the hard work and effort of teachers, parents and student helpers. This just goes to show that working together in harmony reaps great benefits and this can only be good for all concerned.

