

SIR ELLIS KADOORIE SECONDARY SCHOOL (WEST KOWLOON)

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PTA Newsletter No.20.Sept 2012 PARENTS-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION 2011-2012

Principal's Message

It is my great privilege to be able to convey a message for the PTA newsletter in the capacity as Principal of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon), a school with its uniqueness in having students from different ethnic groups. I am really glad to be able to serve the school and to make my contribution to the group of students who need our services. After a year's close contact with my students, I could grasp hold of some of their strengths and characteristics. It is found that students of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) possess the talents in languages as well as performing arts. Based on the findings and the data collected, we have formulated our 3-year School Development Plan for the years 2012/13 to 2014/15 which includes three major concerns (1) Effective teaching and learning, (2) Healthy Life Style and Cultural Harmony and (3) Capacity Building in Teachers.

As for the first major concern, several measures have been taken to rectify some weaknesses of the students which include a delay in the specialization of Mathematics Module 1 and Module 2 after S.4 to allow students to have better understanding of their own abilities in Mathematics before making their decisions; the introduction of BAFS(Management) as a NSS elective to cater for students with average numeric abilities and the introduction of Visual Arts(HKDSE) is to address to the strength of some of our students in arts.

Moreover, the school is also serious about whole-person development of our students. Our student support programmes and cross-curricular programmes have been coordinated and integrated into a school-based curriculum which is delivered in the format of class periods for life and value education.

To develop our students as lifelong learners is one of our concerns. Critical thinking skills, study skills and problem solving skills programmes have been offered by service providers in collaboration with Liberal Studies Department and Academic Promotion Committee. In this school year, Debating Club is formed to stretch students' potential in critical thinking. In fact, our debating team has been achieving outstanding results in the Inter-government school English Debating Contest.

Knowing our students' strengths in languages, GCSE(Chi) has been made compulsory for all Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) students so that all NCS students can have the opportunities for tertiary education via the JUPAS. We have been working with the Faculty of Education, HKU to design the Chinese curriculum and provide after-school classes for NCS students. Students' performance in all these subjects has been outstanding with 50% of the students achieving A or A*. Moreover, other languages (French, Hindi and Urdu) have also been introduced as NSS electives. With such changes, we believe that our NCS students will have better future.

As for the second major concern, our school participates jointly with other government secondary schools in the Healthy School Project sponsored by the Narcotics Department. The project includes drug tests and other anti-drug activities with the aim to help our students to stay away from drugs. To promote healthy lifestyle and cultural harmony, apart from our existing Extra-curricular activities and programmes, new clubs are formed on the request of the students which include Drama club, Spanish club, Cricket team and both the boys' and the girls' Hockey teams. The activities enable them to develop collaborative skills and interpersonal skills. We are glad to see the establishment of the first girls' Hockey team in the history of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon).

Knowing our students' talent in performing arts, resources have been allocated to the employment of professional service

provider to train up our students for a musical drama and lead them to participate in the Drama Festival. We are all looking forward to a fruitful and rewarding learning outcome. In addition, lunch-time mini concerts have been conducted by students. Via these programmes we expect our students to develop a better understanding of their own abilities and strengths. This has been found very effective in helping our students to build their self-confidence and to improve their performance in various aspects. We are pleased to find that our students enjoy the harmonious school lives.



Under the NSS academic structure, we are very serious about personal development and careers education of our students because secondary graduates would be at the cross roads for further studies in tertiary institutes or entering the working world. To prepare our students for their future challenges, an extra platform for helping our students to achieve their life goals has been formed by a group of alumni. Seminars on life experience sharing and careers visits would be organized to enrich our students.

Students are given more opportunities to acquire various learning experiences and to take a more active role in the learning process. Improvements in student discipline, student leadership and peer relations are widely recognized by different stakeholders of the school.

As for the third major concern, we believe that teachers' professional knowledge is one the essential elements for effective teaching and learning. Our school emphasizes much on collaborative learning among teachers. We sustain our good practices established last year and the school will continue to work in collaboration with EDB to form learning circles among new teachers who can learn from each other via peer lesson preparation, peer lesson observation and peer support. It is found that our new teachers could equip with the necessary skills for carrying out their teaching duties effectively within a short period of time. In this school year, a mentorship scheme for new teachers is formed.

To facilitate home-school cooperation, we have been using various channels to enhance home-school communication. These include student's handbook; parents' handbook; regular parents' letters on the 1st and 15th day of each month; telephone calls; school intranet; invitations to various school functions and monthly meetings with the Principal. As we believe that effective home-school cooperation is essential for the betterment of our students.

Our Parent-Teacher Association has been very supportive and enthusiastic. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Chairlady, Mrs. Kusum Sharma as well as all the executive members of PTA who have offered their unflinching support to our school. I have to express my sincere thanks to our passionate and professional staff especially our teachers. I must also extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents for their trust and strong support.

With our concerted efforts, we have full confidence that Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) would continue to maintain its forward momentum to accomplish greater achievements in the years ahead.

Chairperson's Message

Dear Parents,

It has been another successful year as a PTA Chairperson. And I am excited to thank all the PTA parent members and teachers alike for the support I have received from them. I would also like to thank Principal Li for his ever present support to the PTA and his commitment to the school. His determination to do the best for our children has reaped positive results which reflect in the passing grades achieved by our S6 students in 2011-2012.

Lot of things have been happening at school and PTA has been very busy. We have sponsored the following:

- Learning Celebrations
- Most improved students' awards
- Prizes for PTA Fun Day
- Subsidies for Dance teams and Speech festivals
- Refreshments on meetings like AGM and Parents' night
- Souvenirs for committee members

We even made time to go on an outdoor picnic this year. Our team was able to achieve all these targets due to generous donations made by the students and parents.

As parents, all of us are busy, but I do respectfully ask that you find one way to contribute to Sir Ellis Kadoorie School. Join a committee that allows you to volunteer from home, attend PTA meetings and bring your great ideas, donate a prize for Readathon, and support our fundraisers. There's something for everyone. Let our mission be- 'Mission Possible'. Let's all join hands to make our school the best! Have a great year!

Thanks again,
Kusum Sharma
PTA Chairperson



Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and co-operation during all the PTA activities.

In order to make PTA more effective, we need the support and involvement of the parents of our students. Best way to show your support will be to participate in the events and programs that we have planned throughout the year. You may choose to be a committee member or a volunteer. Whatever level of participation you choose; your time and involvement will be greatly appreciated. Many parents feel that they cannot participate in the PTA because they cannot come to meetings or be at school during the day. Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, your time, and your talent are truly needed. There are endless possibilities in ways you can help. Research shows that students whose parents are involved in their



Vice-chairman's Message



education have better grades and fewer discipline problems. We promise that the time you give to the PTA and the school will be worth your while—and fun! Please consider volunteering, it really does make a difference in the lives of all our children.

The PTA welcomes you to join all Principal's meetings to voice your concerns and contribute your ideas for the betterment of our school. All meeting dates and activities are posted regularly on the school's website.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through the PTA on our school website. Have a wonderful school year. Sincerely,

THIRUNACH
(Thirupathi Nachiappan)

A message from PTA Executive Committee Member



加了三屆學校的家長教師會（家教的一份子。由第一屆什麼事都不懂不的行政運作，校長 / 副校長及各位老師活動班之安排有了更深入的了解。席霍振雄先生所說～家教會成立的宗旨同成長，提高對學校的歸屬感及加強家校溝通，加強交流協助孩子學業和品德的成長。過去亦有家長提出自動出水機的開放安排不完善，令學生要購買飲料解渴。經提出後校方即作出適當另外的修改安排，這點是證明了家校溝通的成效。

但眼見過去三屆的家教會所舉辦的會議及興趣活動，沒有得到家長們的積極參與，本人甚失望！正因為此，我希望今屆會有更多新血加入家教會的大家庭，刺激家校合

作，特別是一年級的家長，使到學校、學生及家長三方面能夠加深了解，達致家校共融。



Learning Celebrations

The Learning Celebrations took place on 16 March 2012, in which the school's PTA participated enthusiastically by setting up the following stalls:

Popcorn Stall- It was the first time the PTA gave it a try by hiring a Popcorn Popper Machine. The stall with popping popcorn was a big hit with the students, parents and teachers alike. Do you still have the memories of popping popcorn day?



Candy Floss Stall- This stall was a massive success, not only with the students but with teachers as well. Teachers and parents collectively ran the Candy Floss stall for the PTA and did a fantastic job.

Waffle stall- It needs no mention that the PTA very much appreciates the effort being put in by the French Club over the years in setting-up this 'hot-cake' stall. This has always been the favourite stall amongst young and adults. Bravo to the French Club for its unfailing support to the event.



Parents' Night cum 20TH Parents-Teachers' Association (PTA) Annual General Meeting

On 18th November 2011-Parents' Night cum 20th Parents-Teachers' Association (PTA) AGM was held in school hall. Thereafter, voting was conducted to elect the Parent Representatives of the PTA Executive Committee (2011-2012). Our enthusiastic parents turned up on time to participate, support and witness this event.

At about 6:30 pm, our Principal, Mr. LI Wing Leung, welcomed the parents in the school hall for this important event and thanked them for their enthusiasm and support. Then our PTA Chairperson, Ms. Sharma Kusum, gave her chairperson's report and highlighted the aim of further fostering positive thinking, values and to enhance our students' and parent-members' sense of belonging to the school. She highlighted the achievements made in the last year, and acknowledged that the school, teachers, parents and students trust in the PTA has risen tremendously. She was very grateful for the support given by all the parents, teachers and by the school. The minutes of the last 19th PTA meeting were also confirmed. Certificates were presented to last year's members of the PTA Executive Committee and new PTA teacher members were introduced.

There were vacancies for four executive members for the PTA Executive Committee as four members were continuing their two-year term. The candidates were introduced and were elected by secret ballot. At 8.45 pm, the results were announced. Mr. G. S. Batra was re-elected as the PTA Honorary Auditor for the year 2011-2012. It was also the evening for parents to collect the report cards during the sharing session with the respective class-teachers.

It was truly an enjoyable night as it allowed parents to freely mingle with teachers to share their views. It was a wonderful evening with snacks and drinks sponsored by the PTA. Parents also got to meet their children's subject teachers to know more about their progress. A donation drive during the AGM raised a total sum of HK\$3,087 for the PTA.



PTA Executive Committee Members for 2012-13

Chairperson	Ms. Sharma Kusuma
Vice-chairperson	Mr. Nachiappan Thirupathi
Secretary	Mr. GAUR Anil Ms. Nicomedes Rosalie V
Treasurer	Ms. Hung Fei-kei Ms. Mariamma Varughese
Teacher Members	Mr. LI Wing Leung Ms. Ho Yuk-ye Mr. Lo Kwing-Hang Mr. PRASAD Manoj Kumar Mr. SINGH Manpreet Ms. CHAN Kwai Yin Ms. Chau Sze Man
Parent Members	Mr. Khimding Ran bahadur Mr. Gurung Asho Kumar Mr. Man Kumar (co-opt) Mr. Leung Lai Chun Ms. Lee Yuk Keung



PTA-Fun Day-outing

PTA fun day and outing was organised by the PTA on 31st March 2012 at the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village (Sai Kung).

The main purpose of this Fun Day was to bring parents and teachers on a platform, in order to understand each other's responsibilities well and also to strengthen the sense of belonging to the school.

There were around 30 participants including students, their parents and teachers' families. The camp fee, coach fee and lunch charges were fully subsidized by the PTA. The participants enjoyed a lot of leisure activities including; Archery, Squash, Mini Golf and Badminton. The vegetarian meal was provided to all participants and they really enjoyed it. Although few participants complained about the long tiring journey, most of the students found the journey very enjoyable due to good interactive games and prizes on the coach.

We hope that next year PTA Fun Day would again be a successful event and teachers would have more opportunities to interact with parents in order to improve their parent-teachers' relationship.



Principal's Meetings with Parents

Following the success of the Principal's meetings with parents, the PTA continued to organize similar meetings in the 2011-12 school year. In total nine (9) 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 share their opinions with other parents.

	Date	Time	Theme
1	07/10/2011	15:45 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing session, Talk by Mr. Thiru on PTA -AGM and Parents night School Intranet, ECA and Q & A session
2	15/11/2011	11:30 - 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents child and teacher relay
3	18/11/2011	17:00 - 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent's Sharing session AGM and Parents' Night
4	16/12/2011	18:00 - 21:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for Half yearly Examination Talent Show Sharing session
5	25/02/2012	Whole day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent's day
6	16/03/2012	Whole day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest developments at school
7	27/04/2012	15:45 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance & Counseling: identifying learning difficulties & helping your children improve their language skills and building a positive relationship with them. Sharing session
8	01/06/2012	15:45 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to help your child prepare for examinations Timetabling during the post-exam Activities Promotion criteria Sharing session
9	06/07/2012	15:45 - 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer vacation activities New school developments 2012-2013 Q & A



National-Costume-Day



PTA Interest Classes

PTA has organized a variety of interest classes to foster home-school cooperation. These interest classes were free of charge and were open to all school stakeholders - parents, students and teachers - on a first-come first-served basis. Enrollment was required for interest classes where there was limited capacity. Details of the interest classes are as follows:

	Interest Classes	Dates
1	Business Course	16 th March 2012
2	Funky Dance	1 st March, 8 th March 2012
3	Pilates	19 th April, 26 th April 2012
4	Bowling	30 th April 2012
5	Modern Dance	26 th and 28 th June 2012
6	Tennis	3 rd July 2012

