



DECEMBER & JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

Christmas has arrived at PIPS! December is a month full of festive atmosphere with Christmas decorations all around. Our children are all excited and busy in their classes engaging in all the fun filled activities. We can hear their lovely voices singing some Christmas songs for the school party.

This year, we are very pleased to invite three daddies to be our Father Christmas for the Christmas parties. They are Mr. Tahilramani, Alisa and Veer's father from Octopus class and Sea Lions AM class. Mr. Tejsinghani and Mr. Poix, whose children have graduated from PIPS have kindly volunteered to come back to be our father Christmas. Thank you very much. We are all excited and look forward to having a fun and enjoyable party together.

There have been a few big school activities at PIPS in the past two months. The Character Day was a fun day seeing lots of different characters coming to PIPS. The Diwali celebration at PIPS was a great success. Some Indian families dressed up with their children in traditional Indian costumes and came to school for the 'show and tell' and to share some festive foods with us. Our Playgroup Family Outing to Gold Coast Beach proved to be enjoyable with beautiful sunny weather. Despite the relatively wet and cold weather during the PN-KG family outing to Penfold Park, it was wonderful to see most children and families playing, interacting, exploring and participating in the group activities. Your support and enthusiasm were much appreciated. Our Christmas celebrations will round off a very busy last month of the year.

There were some workshops for parents and teachers in November. The Speech and Language Workshop by Arthur Fang, the Speech Pathologist, were well received by parents. Lots of parents seemed quite interested in the topic of 'bilingualism'. For the professional development day for both HK and KLN PIPS on 28th November, we invited Alexandra Meyer, a Child and Adult Counsellor, to conduct a workshop about using positive language to guide children's behaviour. We believe it was a very useful workshop for our teachers.

The school Christmas holidays will be from 19th December 2016 to 2nd January 2017. Our school will resume on Tuesday, 3rd January 2017.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Yours sincerely,
Mary Scarborough
Principal





A few reminders...

Admission for 2017 -2018

A survey form will be sent out for our existing Pre-Nursery and Nursery students after the Christmas holiday. This is for you to indicate your plan for your child's admission for next school year 2017-2018 at PIPS. Please fill in the survey and return it to the class teachers by Friday, 13th January 2017 to guarantee a place for your child. Should you wish to get more information, you are welcome to enquire at the school office.

Christmas Concerts and Party

Our Playgroup Christmas parties are scheduled on 15th and 16th December. The Christmas parties for Pre-Nursery and Kindergarten classes are scheduled on Friday, 16th December 2016 and parents are invited to join the party. Please refer to the invitation for details.

Professional Development Day

Our teachers will be attending two days PYP in house training at PIPS on 20th and 21st January 2017. There will be no school on these two days.

Forthcoming School Events

Christmas Gifts Giving for HKSPC

We are collecting Christmas gifts for the underprivileged children of the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children. If any parents would like to donate any toys with a minimum value of \$100, please wrap the toys with a tag which states the gender and age range. You can send it to school by Friday, 9th December 2016. Thank you.



Annual Family Outing 2016



Playgroup went to Gold Coast Beach



PN-KG went to Penfold Park

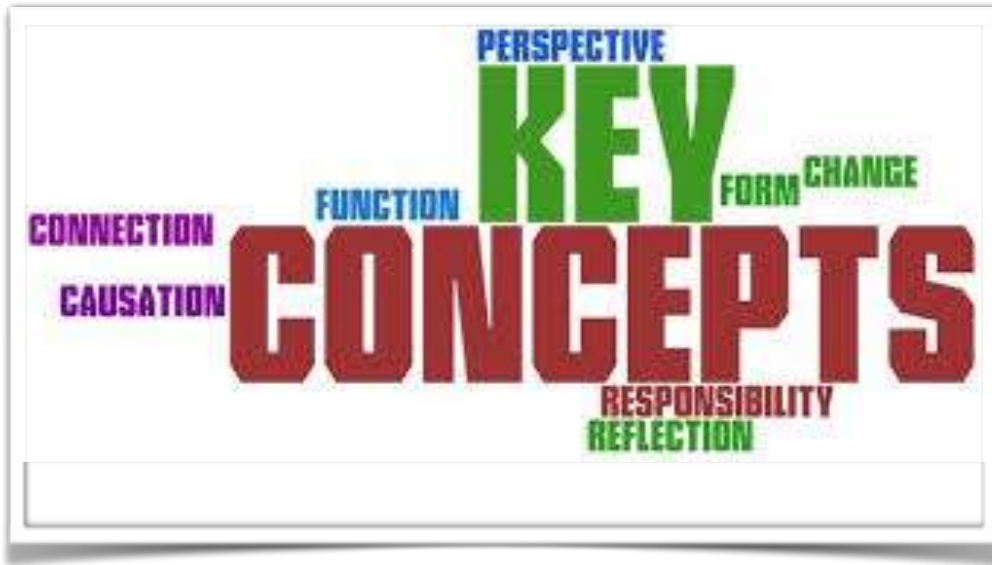


Concepts

What is a concept based curriculum?

At the heart of the PYP are 8 key concepts which are the driving force of the programme.

As education trends have changed, so have curriculum frameworks in response. The PYP is at the forefront of this change enabling children to inquire through conceptually based units.



The key concepts are the lens through which children explore their units of inquiry. Concepts are big ideas that are transferable and unbound by place or time and transcend the traditional subject areas. Simply put, they are big ideas that can be learnt through all subjects in the classroom. During your child's time here at PIPS they will visit and re-visit these concepts in order to develop a deeper understanding of them.

You will get information about the concepts the children will explore in their units through our 'unit newsletters' which you receive before a unit begins. Each concept is attached to a line of inquiry and helps children and teachers to focus their thinking and learning. Each concept has a key question which helps us to understand its meaning.

The 8 key concepts and their questions are:

FORM
What is it like?

FUNCTION
How does it work?

CAUSATION
Why is it like it is?

CHANGE
How is it changing?

CONNECTION
How is it connected to other things?

PERSPECTIVE
What are the points of view?

RESPONSIBILITY
What is our responsibility?

REFLECTION
How do we know?