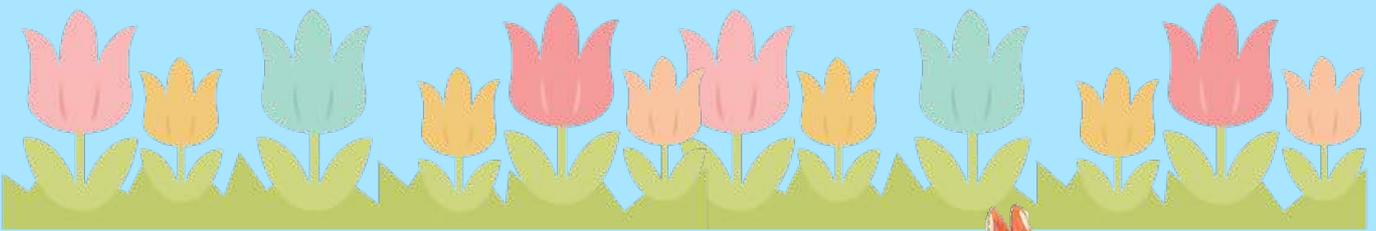




# APRIL & MAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

Spring is here already! The weather has become relatively wet and humid. We hope you all take extra care of yourselves and your children as this is the season when we can easily become ill.

The air quality in Hong Kong is always a concern for parents of young children. Our school checks both local and international air quality indices to decide whether our children should go outdoors to play. This month our School Supervisor has kindly approved the purchase of air purifiers for Playgroup and Pre-Nursery classrooms to improve the air quality indoors.

As I look after two schools, it is always very interesting for me to walk around the schools to visit the children and teachers. Time really flies! Look at how much our children have grown and

developed since the beginning of the school year. I am very proud to see how confident they now are when greeting people, interacting with others and asking questions. They are also very actively engaged in exploring the many different activities prepared for them. So much learning is happening!

The next few months will be an exciting time for children and teachers to finish off their explorations of the last units and prepare for the big event of the Graduation Ceremony for UKG and LKG children and our end of year parties.

Easter is just around the corner and we hope that all of you have an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break.

Yours sincerely,  
Mary Scarborough  
Principal



## Easter Holidays

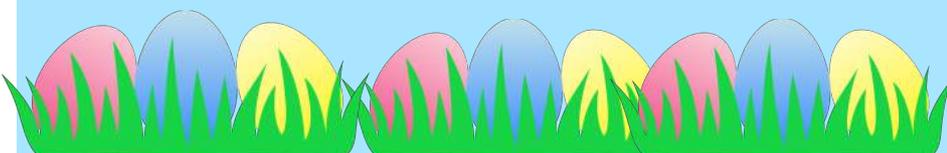
Easter Holidays will start from 3<sup>rd</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> April. All classes will resume on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Public Holidays in May  
1<sup>st</sup> May - Labour Day  
3<sup>rd</sup> May - The Buddha's Birthday

2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Professional Development Day (No School)

## Summer Camp 2017

Summer Camp 2017 is now open for applications. Our summer camp will run over 3 weeks from 10<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July. Please feel free to collect a leaflet from the school office.



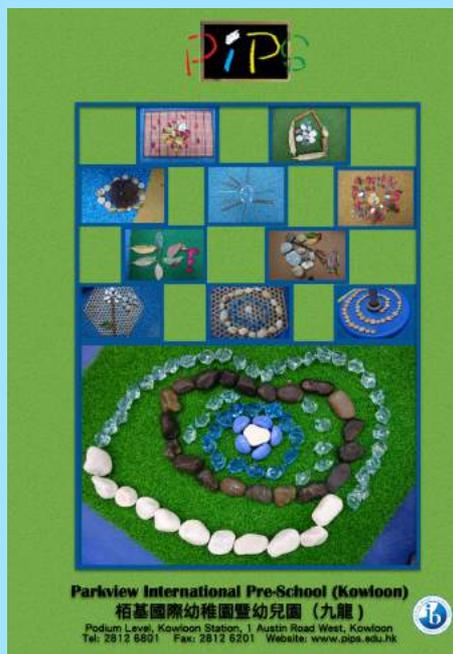
# YEARBOOK 2016-2017

We are in the process of preparing our 10<sup>th</sup> School Yearbook which will include lots of our children's daily school photos, special events photos, class and individual photos. It will be a great moment for your family to recall their wonderful time at PIPS. If you would like to order, sponsor our yearbook or place an advertisement in it, please fill in the form and return it to the school office by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

We would like to thank our UKG and LKG children for collecting different natural materials and creating different patterns for our Yearbook cover.



*The children were inspired by Andy Goldsworthy's art in nature. They worked together to create their patterns for our School Yearbook cover.*



# Trans-disciplinary Learning

## What do my children learn?



PIPS is an Authorised IB World School and follows the framework set out by the IB to develop our units of inquiry.

Each unit is created under one of the six transdisciplinary themes. Transdisciplinary simply means that we explore the units using all the traditional subject areas (Language, The Arts, Personal, Social and Physical, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science) but in a real and authentic way. The themes were chosen because of their broad outlook and when teachers plan, they choose a specific aspect of the theme description to explore in more depth. (The theme descriptions are on the right.) Teachers then look for real links between what the children are learning about and what skills and knowledge naturally fit into the unit, and what other skills and knowledge need to be taught but are not unit related.

So it might be that your children learn to count (mathematics) through the role-play area that has been set up as a supermarket, but in this activity they will also be communicating with friends and teachers making it also a great opportunity for language development and personal, social and physical education. So one play activity incorporates many different areas of learning making our environment rich for young learners. At PIPS we are required to study four units per year, two of which must be 'Who We Are' and 'How We Express Ourselves' as mandated by the IB.

Source: Making the PYP Happen, 2009.

### How We Organise Ourselves

An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organisations; societal decision making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

### Sharing the Planet

An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

### Who We Are

An inquiry into the nature of self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

### Where We Are in Place and Time

An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationship between the interconnectedness of individuals and civilisations, from local and global perspectives.

### How We Express Ourselves

An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

### How the World Works

An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and the environment.