



Volume 3
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THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OF PIPS HONG KONG

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

In a blink of an eye, we are approaching the end of term one. The past two months have been very eventful, both in and out of school.

We have had a series of Parents' Workshops which seemed very popular and Parent Teacher Conferences which provided a platform for the parents and the teachers to share their experiences.

Unfortunately, due to safety reasons, the school was suspended by the EDB for a period of time. However, the teachers made sure that learning was less disrupted by providing daily activities for the children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous donation to Box of Hope. We collected more than 75 boxes.

I wish you all a very happy festive season.



IMPORTANT DATES:

19th December - 3rd January
School Christmas Holiday

24th of January 2020
Professional Development
No School

25th January - 7th February
School Lunar New Year Holiday

LOOSE PARTS IN PLAY

Why is loose parts play important in early years?

Loose parts encourage problem-solving, creativity, child-centred play and allow children to make meaning of the natural world around them. They are open-ended. Many toys limit children to only one kind of play: a toy car is for driving, a toy apple is for kitchen role-play. Loose parts enable children to find their own creative uses. A stick can be a sword, a pencil, a drumstick- because it is nothing, it can be anything!

Recommended Book: Not A Stick

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Not-Stick-Antoinette-Portis/9780007254828>

We have it in the school library too!

How to inspire your children:

We shouldn't provide directions on how to use the loose parts. Children will naturally inquire and explore different uses.

Encourage sensory play.

Children will be interested to explore the different characteristics of the loose parts. For example, metal nuts will feel cold and hard, a feather is soft and light. How does a stick feel?

Be mindful

Give children a chance to test limits. Sticks, shells or leaves that get broken provide a valuable experience to children without the costs that would come from breaking an actual toy. Because of this, these loose parts can also be taken anywhere, put in water, put in mud, etc. These forms of play provide benefits through actions that we wouldn't normally encourage with formal toys and playthings.

Children may be interested in creating art with loose parts. These works of art could be temporary, just laid out on a surface, or glued together to create a permanent artwork.

What kind of things can be used as loose parts?

Loose parts materials are open-ended, have no predetermined rules for use and provide children with endless opportunities to build on their play.

Examples of loose parts:

- Natural: resources: stones, seashells, feathers, pine cones, leaves, sticks, sand.
- Household items: plastic bottles, recycled boxes, curtain rings, newspapers, beads, buttons, balls, tubes, tins, pots, marbles, pegs, metal nuts and bolts.
- Fabrics: scarves, ribbons, laces, scrunchies.
- Modelling materials: playdough, kinetic sand, slime.

The possibilities are endless and only limited by your imagination!

