



Volume 1
Issue 2
October 2019

THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OF PIPS KOWLOON

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL, GAZEL RAZAVI

Dear Parents,

It has been almost two months since the beginning of the school year. Over the last months, the children have settled in their classes quickly and have started their programme of inquiry. This year, we are cultivating a “Lifelong Learner” culture throughout the school. Our teachers have been attending Professional Development and information sessions and we have also arranged a variety of Parents’ Workshops for our parents to help them in different areas of parenting and education. Please stay tuned for more information!

Additionally, there will be a variety of opportunities for the parents to get involved in school activities too, if you are interested in celebrating any festivities, becoming a mystery reader or simply do some cooking with the children, please contact the class teachers.



IMPORTANT DATES:

1st October

National Day (Public Holiday)

7th- 11th October

Mid Term Break

All classes will resume on 14th
October 2019

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Dress Casual Day

We would like to invite you and your child to take part in the Community Chest Dress Casual Day on **Monday, 14th October 2019**. Children can dress in casual clothes to come to school in return for a donation of \$70 or more to support the Community Chest which raises funds for a variety of charities within Hong Kong. All donations will be passed on in full to benefit the social welfare agencies supported by the Community Chest of Hong Kong.

Open House

PIPS Kowloon Open House will be held on **Saturday, 19th October 2019**. Prospective parents and students are invited to visit our school, meet the teachers and learn about our programmes.

Diwali at PIPS

We will be having a Diwali display at school from **16th to 25th October**. Students who would like to celebrate Diwali, are invited to wear their special costumes to school to show their friends on **Wednesday, 23rd October 2019**, as part of the special festival. They are also welcome to bring festive food to share in class. Family members are welcome to join in too!

Character Day

This year's Character Day will be held on **Thursday, 31st October 2019**. All students and teachers can dress up as their favourite character on this special day to trick or treat.

Playgroup Family Outing to Gold Coast Beach

Playgroup families are invited to join our family outing to Gold Coast Beach. This outing is an opportunity for playgroup parents to meet each other and encourage further sensory play in the sand and the sea. The Tuesday and Thursday Playgroup Outing will be scheduled on Thursday, 24th October 2019 and the Monday, Wednesday and Friday Playgroup Outing will be held on **Friday, 25th October 2019**.

PN-KG Family Outing to Inspiration Lake

Our annual PN-KG family outing is a great opportunity for our families and children to enjoy an experience outside of school. Our teachers will set up different activities for families and children to participate in. We are excited to announce that we will be going to Inspiration Lake on **Thursday, 14th, November 2019**. For details about the family outing, please refer to the notice that we will send out at a later date.

1st Parent and Teacher Conference for PN to KG classes

You are invited to come and meet your child's teachers on **Friday, 15th November 2019**, to discuss your child's progress. Please come at the scheduled time on the notice. Each meeting will last for 15 minutes and the meeting is for parents ONLY. Please note that playgroup classes will continue as normal on this day. Fields Books will be selling a variety of English and Chinese children's books in our foyer.



NEW PROGRAMMES AT PIPS

This year, we are delighted to introduce a new programme for our Nursery morning students. This programme allows children to stay in school until 3:00 p.m. and have a structured English programme as well as a variety of Extra-Curricular activities, without needing to commute. These activities include Mindfulness, Music and Movement, Putonghua, S.T.E.M. and Visual Art.

We have been running this programme for two consecutive years at our Hong Kong campus and we have seen great progress in children's confidence and communication skills. It is a fantastic programme for preparing the Nursery children for their journey into LK/UK and eventually primary school. We have already received a number of applications and we look forward to starting NEXT in November.

Extracurricular Activities

Our ECA programmes on weekdays started in September and are already in full swing. The first term of ECA classes will start in October and we have added two new programmes this year – “S.T.E.A.M” and “Interview Prep Camp”.

S.T.E.A.M

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) activities are all about inspiring our next generation of inventors and innovators. Through these activities children can have huge amounts of fun by creating like an artist, designing like a technologist and building like an engineer, enhancing their critical and scientific thinking skills.

Interview Prep Camp

This course is specially designed for children who are going to have primary school interviews when English is not their first language. This course will enhance children's conversational skills through small group learning. The children will learn to use complete sentences to ask and answer questions. Their confidence to express themselves will improve through a wide range of listening and speaking engagements.

If you are interested in any of our ECA programmes, please contact our School Office.



Jonathan Cubitt

PYP Coordinator

In my new role as PYP Coordinator at PIPS, it has been a real pleasure to oversee the beginning of a new school year. We have welcomed several fantastic and enthusiastic new teachers onto our staff and they have quickly become part of the family here at PIPS. It has also been a pleasure to meet all of the new students and see how much the returning students have grown and developed since last school year.

For the new school year, we have aligned our Programme of Inquiry (our framework for units of inquiry throughout the year) with the PIPS Hong Kong campus. This means that each level from Pre-Nursery to LK/UK, in both schools, will simultaneously be studying the same Units of Inquiry during the year. This has really opened the door for more collaboration and communication between schools. This has been flourishing so far and it means that the students and teachers at both schools benefit from shared expertise and the sharing of ideas for inspiration.

We have made a change to parent/school communication this year by moving to the use of Seesaw for weekly updates and as a replacement for the class blog in Pre-Nursery, Nursery and LK/UK classes. I feel that the quality of photos of the students has improved a lot from last year and the parents benefit from the photos being put in context by the teacher's comments and the folders that show what type of learning is taking place. As with any change, it takes time to get used to but the teaching staff here at PIPS and the parents at PIPS have shown great willingness to embrace the change and it is much appreciated.

For those parents that are new to the school or would like to learn more about our IB curriculum, the 'PYP' or 'Primary Years Programme'. I will be conducting an interactive workshop that will look at the PYP framework, our approach to teaching and learning, discuss the terminology you are hearing and seeing from teachers, and the skills we strive to develop. This workshop will be held on the 8th of November 2019 and a letter will be sent out shortly after the mid-term break.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the learning at PIPS.

