

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2022 | VOL 1

## HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

A warm welcome to all our students, old and new, for the start of the 2022/2023 academic year! The short summer has flown by, but I hope you all managed to indulge yourselves with some much earned rest and relaxation!

Our teaching staff have been back at school since the first week of August, busy preparing for the start of the academic year. We held a professional development meeting to learn and share ideas about setting inspiring and meaningful learning environments for young learners, and the team is feeling inspired and excited to implement their new ideas. We truly believe that the school environment can provoke curiosity and intellectual engagement.

This year, I am proud to announce that Mr Don, who has been working as an English Teacher and Year Leader at PIPS Kowloon for almost 10 years, will be taking up the role of PYP Coordinator. His focus will be to support our teaching staff and continue to develop and enhance our IB inquiry-based curriculum, along with our Pedagogical Team. You will also be seeing him a lot at the door during welcome time... Please feel free to say "Hi" to Mr. Don! I am confident that our teaching team will be working hand-in-hand together this year, helping our children to grow further by providing meaningful and age-appropriate learning experiences at PIPS.

Since this is the first newsletter of the academic year, you may notice it's a little bulkier than usual, with a few more reminders. That is because we have a lot of useful (and important!) information to share with you. So sit back, relax and grab yourself a cup of coffee! Happy reading!



## IMPORTANT DATES:

**12TH SEPTEMBER 2022**  
THE DAY FOLLOWING  
MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL  
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

**4TH OCTOBER 2022**  
CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL  
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

**10TH-14TH OCTOBER 2022**  
MID-TERM BREAK  
(SCHOOL HOLIDAY)

**18TH OCTOBER 2022**  
SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION  
(FIRST DOSE)

## **Effective Parental Involvement by Ms Indira**

The children at Parkview International Pre-School (PIPS) are blessed to have parents who are committed to and involved in their learning and education.

Effective parental involvement is about balance. It, ideally, encompasses all the elements of childhood development. It is not just about ensuring our children are competitive academically and developing cognitive and language abilities. It is equally crucial for us to ensure that our children develop competently in their physical, emotional, social, and problem-solving skills.

At PIPS, we believe in play-based learning through inquiry. We believe in celebrating children's natural curiosity, because the best type of learning is when the children are interested in learning. We also believe in developing children as whole persons. What underpins learning is helping children develop a healthy sense of self and an understanding of how they fit into the communities in which they live. This healthy sense of self and community can only be formed when the children feel secure and know how to relate to others through empathy and social conscience – skills we often call “soft skills”.

Think back on your personal experience. When were you most effective in your workplace? When were you most effective in learning when you were a student? When did you feel most positive when faced with challenges? One would suggest that work and learning seemed much easier to manage when you were physically healthy, emotionally secure, and enjoyed real and caring relationships with those around you. Challenges seemed smaller, because one was better able to solve problems and see things from different perspectives.

At PIPS, we want to work in partnership with our parents, not only in the pursuit of our children's knowledge, but also in the development and equipping of valuable skills so that they grow up to become internationally minded, effective and contributing members of society. We hope to celebrate and support our children's learning journeys, milestones and achievements, and to make school life an enjoyable and significant experience for both parents and children.

To promote parent involvement, we have several ways for parents to get involved in school:

- Mystery Reader
- Birthday Celebrations
- Annual Outing
- Parents workshops
- Show and Tell
- PTC



## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### **School Hours**

For our preschoolers, the main door will be opened at 8:40am for the morning session and 12:55pm in the afternoon. Please do not send your children to school too early. Dismissal time will be 11:45am for the morning session, 4:00 for the afternoon session and 3:30pm for the full-day session. Please try to encourage your child to be on time when coming to school. Punctuality is an important lesson for us to learn in life! A punctual start also conveys to the child that school is important and is valued by you.

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

Our school offers a wide range of extracurricular activities on weekdays and Saturdays. Applications for classes starting at the beginning of September are now open. Please collect a leaflet from our front office. All applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so please apply as soon as possible to guarantee your place!

### **Typhoon and Rainstorm Arrangement**

The weather in Hong Kong can be quite unpredictable. In case of bad weather conditions such as typhoons and rainstorm warnings in force, please refer to our weather policy in the Parent Handbook and check for announcements from the Education Bureau or the weather Observatory of Hong Kong.

### **Student Card**

To ensure the security and safety of your child, parents or guardians must present the student card before picking up their child from school. In the absence of this, the parent or guardian will be required to show his or her ID card and sign a collection form from the office.

### **Stroller Safety**

We have noticed quite a number of strollers being parked outside the school. Please ensure that you do not leave any valuable items in them, as the school does not take responsibility for the safety of the strollers or the items stored in them. Should anyone bring a stroller to school please ensure that they are parked in an orderly manner so as not to block any entrance or exit of the school.

As informed by the management of Elements, scooters and tricycles are not allowed to be parked outside the school. We advise parents to leave the scooter or tricycle at home.

### **Clothing**

We recommend that children wear their PIPS uniform except on special occasions. Our uniform allows your child to feel a part of the school while also expressing their personality and preferences through choice of colour. Accidents can happen so please keep a spare set of clothes in your child's school bag. Shoes should be comfortable and safe, with an elastic or velcro strap to help your child to develop their independence. Please mark all clothing, bags, hats and shoes with your child's name to avoid any mix-ups.



## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### **Safety & Hygiene**

Kindly record your child's temperature on the temperature booklet. Children are also required to take temperature upon arrival at school in the Reception area. Please do not send your child to school if they are ill. If your child develops any symptoms at school, parents will be notified and they will be asked to be sent home. All children will be required to wear a face mask according to EDB requirements.

### **Daily RAT Testing**

As mandated by the EDB, school staff and children are required to take a RAT test every school day before coming to school until further notice. In the new school year, please continue to take a picture of your child's RAT test kit and record your child's RAT test result on the Temperature Record booklet. Though parents are no longer required to send this picture to the class teachers prior to the start of the school day.

### **Updated Information**

Please let our teachers know about any changes in your routine at home as these can dramatically affect children's behaviour and wellbeing. By letting us know, we will be able to help your child to deal with situations such as a new sibling, a short or lengthy absence of a parent, moving to a new home, the illness or death of a family member, friend or pet, etc. This information will be considered privileged and will remain strictly confidential.

Please notify our school office if you have a change of address, phone number, email address, new helper, or authorised pick-up person. It is important for us to have current information to best serve your child. We also need to be advised of changes to the ones you listed as emergency contacts on your registration form.

### **Seesaw Platform**

Every week your child's teachers share observations, images/clips of your child's progress in the class on the online platform, Seesaw, which is our primary means of communication with parents.

Seesaw is a widely used, user-friendly online learning platform which helps teachers to record, track and celebrate children's progress in their learning journey. Important reminders about the class and school will also be shared on the platform. You can also leave notes to our teachers and they will respond to your message during their preparation time. **For any urgent messages, i.e., late pick-up, please call the school instead.**

Our teachers have already sent messages inviting parents to the platform. Should you have difficulty getting connected, please let us know.

Once set up, you will be able to access these pictures at any time and be able to download them or forward them to relatives. We kindly request that you are sensitive about group pictures and do not upload these to any social media sites. Thank you

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Open Day - 24th September (Saturday)**

We will be hosting our Open Day on 24th September for both campuses. If you have friends who would like to know more about PIPS, please tell them about the event. Thank you.

### **Under 2's Outing - 20th - 21st October**

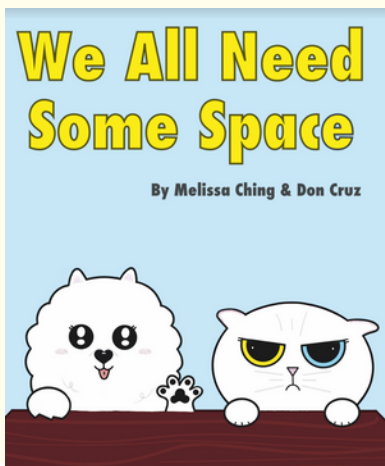
We will be planning our Playgroup Outing and Playgroup families are invited to join this outing. This is an opportunity for playgroup parents to meet each other and encourage learning and play outside the classroom. The Tuesday and Thursday Playgroup Outing will be scheduled for Thursday, 21st October 2022 and the Monday, Wednesday and Friday Playgroup Outing will be held on **Friday, 22nd October 2022**. With the pandemic still affecting us all, we will inform you if this event will be proceeding or not in due course. But at this time, please mark this date on your calendar as we very much hope that we will be able to enjoy spending time in the fresh air with you all!

### **Character Day - 27th - 28th October**

This year's Character Day will be held on **Thursday 27th October and Friday 28th October 2022**. All students and teachers can dress up as their favourite character on this special day to play trick or treat.

### **Children's Book - "We All Need Some Space"**

Our PYP Coordinator, Don Cruz, created his first children's book with his wife. The book is titled, 'We All Need Some Space' and features two adorable characters, Cotton and Maui, who are based on their own pet cat and dog. This is the first instalment of their planned book series that entertains and teaches young children about managing emotions and developing their social awareness. See more information about their book on their official website, <https://www.cottonandmaui.com>







## **PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

We are excited to share with you that we will continue our partnership with **Shrewsbury International School** and strengthen our bond with the below international primary schools, providing PIPS graduates a seamless transition into the primary programme.

- **Hong Kong Academy (Sai Kung)**
- **Australian International School (Kowloon Tong)**
- **YMCA Christian Academy (Sheung Wan)**

For the LK/UK families, if you are interested in learning more about these primary schools, please do not hesitate to contact your PYPC and we are happy to introduce you to the respective Admissions Team for further information.