

A young child with dark hair and green sunglasses is playing a brown ukulele. The child is wearing a red shirt and is looking down at the instrument. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with white chairs.

# **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER, 2025 | VOL 2**

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**5TH-6TH NOVEMBER**  
UNDER 2S FAMILY OUTING

**7TH-8TH NOVEMBER**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY  
(NO SCHOOL OR ECA)

**26TH NOVEMBER**  
INFLUENZA FLU VACCINE  
(2ND DOSE)

**27TH NOVEMBER**  
PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

**28TH NOVEMBER**  
PN, N & LKUK FAMILY OUTING

**4TH DECEMBER**  
LKUK OUTING TO MEI HO HOUSE

**8TH DECEMBER**  
THE DAY FOLLOWING ELECTION  
(NO SCHOOL OR ECA)

**18TH DECEMBER**  
WINTER FESTIVITIES

**19TH DECEMBER-2ND JANUARY**  
WINTER BREAK

## **A MESSAGE FROM MS KITTY HO OUR SCHOOL SUPERVISOR**

As autumn settles in, we've been reflecting on what a wonderful start to the school year it has been, along with the success of our recent Open Days across our Hong Kong, Kowloon, and LOHAS campuses.

In just the past month, our students have enthusiastically celebrated Character Day, Diwali, and the Mid-Autumn Festival. With winter on the way, there are plenty more festivities and experiences for them to look forward to, such as our Christmas party and winter festivities, which we're keeping tight-lipped about for now!

A heartfelt thank-you to all of our families for your continued support and involvement. Each event is a true reflection of the warmth and spirit of our school community.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming school outings that we have planned. Depending on your child's grade level, you can expect to hear more about family outings, theatre trips, picnics, cultural visits and more over the coming weeks! We will be sharing more details soon, so please keep an eye on Seesaw and your email inbox for updates.

Our administrative and teaching staff is also busy preparing for the Winter Camp, which promises to be filled with memorable learning, creativity, and fun.

We look forward to a term filled with achievement, adventure, and togetherness.

## **INQUIRY THROUGH PLAY AT PIPS**

**by Rachel Fong (PYP Coordinator - LOHAS Campus)**

In the IB Primary Years Programme, inquiry through play is a vital approach that fosters curiosity and engagement among all of our learners. At PIPS, we believe that play is not just a pastime; it is a powerful vehicle for exploration and discovery, enabling children to learn meaningfully and joyfully. Our students thrive as they engage in observation, exploration, collaboration, reasoning, problem-solving and evaluation through inquiry.

### **What Is Inquiry Through Play?**

Inquiry through play involves children learning by exploring their environment and engaging in hands-on activities while asking questions. This natural approach encourages critical thinking, creativity, and a love for learning, aligning with the IB Learner Profile Attributes to develop inquirers, thinkers, and communicators. From birth, children are natural explorers. Play-based inquiry supports their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth, fostering meaningful engagement with the world. Collaborative play enhances communication and conflict resolution skills, which are vital for building relationships.

### **How We Promote Inquiry Through Play at PIPS**

At PIPS, we integrate inquiry through play into daily experiences. Our classrooms are stimulating environments that encourage exploration. During self-initiated inquiry time, children engage in activities that spark their interests, such as building, experimenting with art materials, role-playing, among others.

- Pre-Nursery: Children explore textures and colours through sensory play, asking questions and experimenting with materials.
- Nursery: Thematic play areas reflect children's interests, like a "Nature Corner" for exploring plants and insects.
- Lower & Upper Kindergarten: Structured play balances open-ended exploration, with regular reflection sessions to deepen understanding.

The "Wonder Wall", as mentioned in the article "Voice and Choice" by Ms Amelia Maree in the PIPS newsletter Vol 1, remains a central element in the classroom. It allows children to share their questions and observations, guiding their collective inquiry. Additionally, they can revisit questions they have posed throughout the unit.

## INQUIRY THROUGH PLAY AT PIPS (cont.) by Rachel Fong (PYP Coordinator - LOHAS Campus)



(A) Pre-Nursery: The child can be seen exploring colours and materials by moving coloured water to uncover a family photo underneath.



(B) Nursery: Children are engaged in role-playing a picnic, developing critical thinking skills as they figure out how to share "food" made from playdough.



(C) LKUK: The children participated in a cooking class where they made dumplings, exploring Chinese culture and discovering the various foods enjoyed in different countries.

### Supporting Inquiry Through Play at Home

Parents can enhance inquiry through play by creating opportunities for exploration at home. Simple activities like nature/city walks, cooking together, or engaging in arts and crafts can inspire curiosity and spark questions. For instance, going on a scavenger hunt in the park can help children observe different plants and insects, while building a fort at home can encourage imaginative play and storytelling. Encouraging children to take the lead in their play and providing them with open-ended materials such as blocks, recycled items, or art supplies, fosters their natural inclination to explore and inquire. Additionally, activities like gardening, where children can plant seeds and observe their growth, or experimenting with simple science projects, such as making a volcano with baking soda and vinegar, can further ignite their curiosity. Asking open-ended questions during these activities, like "What do you think will happen if we mix these two colours?" or "How can we make our fort stronger?" encourages deeper thinking and exploration.

Inquiry through play cultivates confident, curious learners who are eager to explore their surroundings. By integrating this approach both at school and at home, we create a nurturing environment where children feel empowered to ask questions, experiment, and grow.

*"Play is the highest form of research." (Albert Einstein)*

## PIPS OPEN HOUSE 2025



## **IMPORTANT EVENTS & REMINDERS**

### **School Uniform**

Winter uniforms are now available for purchase at the school office. Please contact our School Office if you would like to arrange a time for uniform fitting. Each order will take approximately a week to process.

As the weather in Hong Kong is quite unpredictable, parents can make their own decision regarding when to let their child put on the winter uniform when the weather is getting cooler. Please be reminded that all items of students clothing should be clearly labelled with their name and class.

### **Professional Development Day**

Professional development training will be provided to our teaching staff on **Friday, 7th November** and on **Saturday, 8th November**. There will be no school, or ECA classes on these two days.

### **Influenza Flu Vaccine (2nd Dose)**

As part of the government's Seasonal Influenza Vaccination School Outreach (Free of Charge) Programme, children will have received their vaccines on **Thursday, 23rd October**. If this was their first influenza vaccine, then they will need to receive their second dose on **Wednesday, 26th November**. As always, to prevent the spread of disease as we move into the colder months, we would like to kindly remind everyone to stay at home if your child is sick or showing signs of illness.

### **Annual Family Outings**

**Under 2s:** This year's family outing will be at Deep Water Bay Beach on **Wednesday, 5th November** and **Thursday, 6th November**.

**PN & KG:** We would like to inform you that our annual family outing will be held on **Friday, 28th November 2025** and the destination will be Inspiration Lake.

### **Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) for Pre-Nursery, Nursery and LKUK classes**

You are invited to come and meet with your child's teacher on **Thursday, 27th November** to discuss your child's progress. Each meeting will last for 10 minutes and the meeting is for parents only. There will be no school for children from PN to KG classes on that day. Please note that Under 2's classes will continue as normal.

### **Winter Festivities**

Our Under 2s Christmas parties are scheduled for **Wednesday, 17th & Thursday, 18th December**. The parties for Pre-Nursery and Kindergarten classes are scheduled for **Thursday, 18th December**. Parents will be invited to join our children for a Christmas party before the winter break begins!