



Volume 3
Issue 3
December 2019

THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OF PIPS KOWLOON

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 observations.

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 190 boxes.

I wish you all a very happy festive season.



IMPORTANT DATES:

19th December -3rd January
School Christmas Holiday

Friday, 24th 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 part 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: play-dough, kinetic sand, slime.

The possibilities are endless and only limited by your imagination!



PIPS KOWLOON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Admission for 2019 -2020

A survey form will be sent out for our existing Pre-Nursery and Nursery students after the Christmas holiday. This is for you to indicate your plan for your child's admission for next school year 2020-2021 at PIPS. Please fill in the survey and return it to the class teachers by Thursday, 17th January 2019, to guarantee a place for your child. Should you wish to get more information, you are welcome to enquire at the school office.

School Uniform

Winter uniform is now available for purchase at the school office. Please contact Ms. Tracy or Ms. Mandy, the school secretaries, to arrange a time for uniform fitting. Each order will take about 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.

Extra Curricular Activities

Our school offers a wide range of extra curricular activities on weekdays or Saturday. Applications for classes starting at the beginning In January are now open. Please collect a leaflet from our front office. All applications will be accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis. We suggest that you apply as soon as possible while spaces are still available.

Forthcoming School Events

Christmas Concerts and Party

Our Playgroup Christmas parties are scheduled on 17th and 18th December 2019. The Christmas parties for Pre-Nursery and Kindergarten classes are scheduled on Wednesday, 18th December 2019, and parents are invited to join the party for the last hour of the session. Please refer to the invitation for details.

Chinese New Year Flower Market

We will celebrate this festival by organising an "Open House Flower Market" for our existing students on Thursday, 23rd January 2020. Our school will be open from 9:00am to 12:00pm. There will be no regular morning or afternoon classes on the day. Parents and children can join at any time during the opening hours and participate in a variety of festive activities as listed below. Parents and children are most welcome to dress in their traditional Chinese costumes on this special day too.

