

A young child with dark hair, wearing a red shirt and a grey jacket, is smiling and playing on a wooden play structure. The structure has various cutouts and a green ramp. The background shows a bright, modern playroom with other children and toys.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2025 | VOL 1

A MESSAGE FROM MS KITTY HO OUR SCHOOL SUPERVISOR

We hope everyone enjoyed a refreshing summer break! It's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed.

Since we began our first term in August, it has been wonderful to see our students enthusiastically adjusting to their new classrooms. Watching them make new friends and engage in meaningful learning experiences brings us immense joy. This month marks the start of their unit learning, and we're excited to support all our children as they thrive and reach their full potential at PIPS.

This year holds special significance as we celebrate the opening of our fifth campus at LOHAS Park. This new facility offers a spacious and enriching environment for our community. Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly over the summer to create a welcoming space for our children, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to them.

We're also thrilled to announce our Open House event in October! We invite you to bring your friends and family to enjoy the special activities our team has prepared for that day. More details will be shared soon.

We look forward to a year filled with celebrations, special events and countless memorable activities. Stay tuned for updates as we embark on what promises to be an incredible year!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

1ST OCTOBER
NATIONAL DAY (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

3RD OCTOBER
MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL PARTY

6TH-10TH OCTOBER
MID-TERM BREAK

7TH OCTOBER
THE DAY FOLLOWING
CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

17TH OCTOBER
DIWALI PARTY

18TH OCTOBER
OPEN DAY

28TH OCTOBER
INFLUENZA VACCINE (1ST DOSE)

30TH-31ST OCTOBER
CHARACTER DAY PARTY

A VOICE AND CHOICE

by Ms Amelia Maree (PYP Coordinator - HK Campus)

Empowering Young Learners: Student Agency in the IB Early Years at PIPS

In the IB Primary Years Programme, student agency is more than a buzzword; it is a belief that even our youngest learners have the right and ability to influence their own learning. At PIPS, we nurture this sense of ownership from the very start, empowering children to be active participants in their educational journey.

What Is Student Agency?

Student agency is the ability of children to make choices, express themselves, and take responsibility for their learning. In the IB Early Years framework, agency is built on three pillars: Voice, Choice, and Ownership. Voice means children are encouraged to share their ideas, feelings, and questions. Choice allows them to decide how they want to explore and engage with learning experiences. Ownership means they reflect on what they've learned and begin to understand themselves as capable, independent learners. These elements are deeply connected to the IB Learner Profile, helping children become communicators, thinkers, and risk-takers through inquiry-based learning.

How We Foster Agency at PIPS

At PIPS, student agency is woven into our daily routines and learning environments. During small group learning time, teachers design activities that reflect children's interests and questions, allowing them to take the lead. In our Pre-Nursery classes, children bring in family photos to share, engage in process-based art that reflects their thoughts, and choose English and Chinese books to take home, giving them meaningful opportunities to express themselves and make decisions.

In Nursery, role play areas are set up based on children's ideas, and our "Wonder Wall" displays questions they've asked during units of inquiry. These questions guide investigations and shape the direction of learning. In our Lower and Upper Kindergarten classes, children co-construct essential agreements, create their own visual timetables, and continue to use the Wonder Wall to drive inquiry. Towards the end of each day, we gather for reflective circle time, where children are invited to share what they've discovered, what challenged them, and what they're proud of. These moments help them make sense of their learning and build confidence in expressing their thoughts.

These practices help children feel seen, heard, and valued, laying the foundation for lifelong learning.

A VOICE AND CHOICE (cont.) by Ms Amelia Maree (PYP Coordinator - HK Campus)



Supporting Agency at Home

Parents can nurture student agency by encouraging children to make choices in daily routines, asking open-ended questions, and listening attentively to their ideas. Whether it's choosing a book to read, helping plan a family activity, or reflecting on their day, these small moments build confidence and independence.

Conclusion

Student agency helps children become confident, capable learners who understand that their voice matters. By supporting agency both at school and at home, we create a learning environment where children feel empowered to explore, express, and grow.

"Through others, we become ourselves." (Lev Vygotsky)



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Hours

The main door opens at 8:55am for the morning session and 12:55pm in the afternoon. Please do not send your children to school too early. Dismissal time will be 12:00noon for the morning session, 3:30pm for the full-day session and 4:00pm for the afternoon session. Please try to encourage your child to be on time when coming to school. Punctuality is an important lesson for children to learn, and also conveys to your child that school is important.

Drop Off Arrangement

Students from the Nursery and LKUK levels will be dropped off at the front door of the school. From there, they will proceed to their classrooms by themselves.

We believe that this new arrangement will have a positive impact on our students' learning journey and development. By allowing them to enter the school and go to their classrooms independently, we aim to build their confidence and encourage them to develop stronger self-management skills under the supervision of their class teachers. This change will also help to alleviate traffic and congestion in the school corridors, creating a safer environment for all our students.

It is important to note that the pick up arrangements will remain unchanged. Parents and caregivers are welcome to enter our campus to pick up your child in front of the classroom and talk to the teachers. Thank you for your understanding.

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's Handbook and check for announcements from the Education Bureau or the Hong Kong Observatory.

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 the child may need to be collected early. Please keep 2 face masks in your child's school bag to protect the children from minor symptoms.

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 at the office.

Personal 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 admission form.

Seesaw Platform

Every week your child's class teachers will share observations, images/clips of your child's progress in the class on the online platform, Seesaw. This 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 on 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 directly 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.

PIPS NEWS

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 make sure to apply by scanning the QR code as soon as possible to guarantee your place!

A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, both wearing yellow shirts with red collars, playing a wooden xylophone. The girl is on the left, and the boy is on the right, holding a mallet. The background is a bright yellow wall.

Sign up today!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2025 - 2026 Term 1

Contact us with any queries and reserve your place today!

PIPS LOHAS
Kindergarten, Level 3,
Package 7, LOHAS Park, 1
LOHAS Park Road, TKO

pipsinfo-lohas@pips.edu.hk
(852) 2631 1299

The International Baccalaureate (IB) logo, featuring a blue circle with a white 'i' and 'b' inside, and the text "INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE" around the perimeter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House

We will be hosting our Open House for prospective families on **Saturday, 18th October**. If you have any friends who would like to know more about the PIPS family, please let them know about the event.

Character Day

This year's Character Day will be held on **Friday 31st October** (or **Tuesday 30th October** for our U2's class). All students and teachers can dress up as their favourite character on this special day to play trick or treat.

Open Day - YMCA Christian Academy

YMCA Christian Academy will be hosting an Open Day on **27th September**. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore their facilities, meet the dedicated staff, and learn more about the programmes they offer.

Date: 27th September

Time: 70 Bridges Street, Sheung Wan

Location: YMCA Christian Academy

For more information, please contact their school office: [**admission@yca.edu.hk**](mailto:admission@yca.edu.hk)

OUR PARTNERSHIPS 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.

- **German Swiss International School - German International Stream (the Peak)**
- **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 Teams for further information.



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