

Paulinian Post

October

ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Welcome Back to School!

Greetings, students! As we commence a new academic year together, it fills our hearts with joy to see each and every one of you return with eager smiles and renewed enthusiasm.

This year holds countless opportunities for growth, discovery, and creating cherished memories. Whether you are beginning a new chapter or continuing your journey, remember that each day is a chance to learn, to challenge yourselves, and to shine.

So, let us embark on this exciting adventure, filled with knowledge, friendships, and personal accomplishments. Welcome back, dear Paulinians.

– English Department



Principal Kwan Pui Ling

In Paulinian Post, we proudly showcase the remarkable achievements of our students in English. Through captivating stories, enchanting poems, and insightful essays, these young wordsmiths have exhibited exceptional creativity and linguistic skills.

Alice in Wonderland

An Interview with the Principal, Ms Alice Kwan

As the new school year begins, it is crucial to reintegrate students and staff into our school community, fostering a comfortable, welcoming and inspiring environment for all to thrive. We are thrilled to have our beloved principal, Ms Alice Kwan, share her experience and efforts in taking a unique initiative to enhance the quality of English education at SPPCS.



Q1. What inspired you to create English Wonderland for our Paulinians, and what goals did you hope to achieve?

I strongly believe the acquisition of a second language extends beyond the boundaries of traditional classrooms. To cultivate our girls' motivation and interest for learning English, it is essential to establish a rich English learning environment that maximises all available time and resources inside and outside classrooms. English Wonderland is meticulously designed to let our girls develop confidence in their English proficiency. Through immersive language exposure and purposeful, meaningful activities, I trust that our girls will flourish as self-assured English users, readily applying the language in their daily lives.

Q2. Can you describe the benefits and advantages you believe English Wonderland provides to our Paulinians in terms of language acquisition and overall performance educational development?

English Wonderland is a safe and supportive space where our girls are presented with abundant opportunities to engage with the English language in authentic contexts. For instance, interacting with our Native-speaking English Teachers (NETs) facilitates the development of an international mindset, fostering a deep appreciation for intercultural understanding. This, in turn, promotes peace and empowers our girls to become exemplary global citizens. Additionally, the acquisition of a second language plays a pivotal role in enhancing our girls' cognitive abilities, equipping them with better thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving skills. Our girls love to go to Wonderland during recess to have fun while naturally employing English in a spontaneous manner!

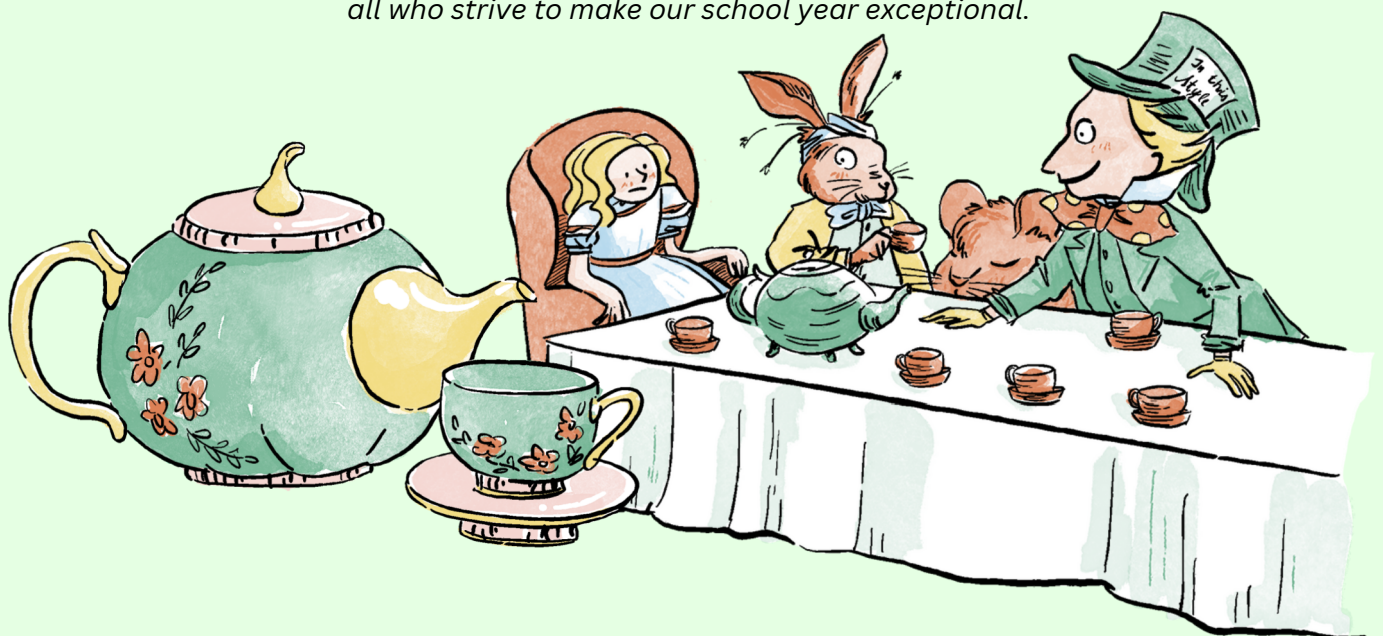
Q3. How did you envision English Wonderland enhancing the primary students' engagement and enthusiasm for learning the English language?

Just like Alice's whimsical journey in Wonderland, we want our students to embrace curiosity, creativity, and a sense of wonder as they navigate the English language. Our dedicated English teachers have crafted programs and activities like the English Ambassador Team, English Incentive Scheme, and Ready, Set, Speak to provide opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the English language and embark on imaginative adventures. Through the magic of storytelling, they can travel to far-off lands, meet fascinating characters, and envision their own unique futures. Our goal is to create an enchanting Wonderland where language acquisition becomes a magical and exciting journey for every student.

Q4. What feedback have you received from students, parents, or teachers regarding the impact of English Wonderland on the primary students' language skills, confidence, and overall educational experience?

We have received resoundingly positive feedback from our students, parents, and teachers. It is most heartening to see our girls actively take part in different immersive activities. They feel less pressured in a non-classroom setting, so they demonstrate a greater willingness to collaborate and interact with their peers in English. Parents express their appreciation for our unwavering commitment to fostering student involvement, effective communication, and a supportive learning environment. Similarly, our teachers take pride in witnessing the significant impact of this initiative on our girls' language development and personal growth.

As our interview with our esteemed principal drew to a close, several noteworthy qualities shone through. Above all, Ms Kwan's unwavering passion for education and commitment to providing quality learning opportunities for all students resonate strongly. School might have only been in session now for a handful of weeks, but it is no doubt there has been a noticeable change from previous years. Her words remind us that with perseverance and a genuine love for our craft, we can overcome obstacles and achieve greatness. Let us carry forward Ms Kwan's wisdom, expressing gratitude not only to her but to all who strive to make our school year exceptional.



English Wonderland



'I enjoy visiting English Wonderland because it offers a wide variety of board games that I can play with my friends, including UNO, Rummikub, Scrabble, and Monopoly. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to enhance our English and oral skills. I also have the drama class in English Wonderland every Friday where we create puppets and put on shows. What an incredibly enjoyable experience!'

~ Tanya Fung 5C



'My favourite place at school is English Wonderland. It is on the first floor. My classmates and I play games there. We can read books too. When we are playing, my teachers take care of us. I like English Wonderland because it is a fun place. It gives me good memories.'

~Fanny Suen 2D

Meet English Ambassador Team (EAT)

English Ambassadors are the leaders responsible for creating an English-rich environment in school by broadening student exposure to English via interactive fun activities. In the meantime, they receive training on various skills such as leadership, presentation and writing.



Pledge of Allegiance

As English Ambassadors, we will do our best to serve our schoolmates and establish a profound English-speaking environment in school. We should be responsible, polite, and encouraging to serve the school with the spirit of “To serve but not to be served.”



Introducing New Faces

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new teachers who have joined our esteemed school community. These talented educators bring a wealth of knowledge, passion, and fresh perspectives to our classrooms. We are excited to have them on board and look forward to the positive impact they will make on our students' lives with their dedication, expertise, and commitment to nurturing young minds!



'It's a privilege to return to my alma mater as an English teacher to share my knowledge and love for the English language with the next generation in the very place that shaped me.'

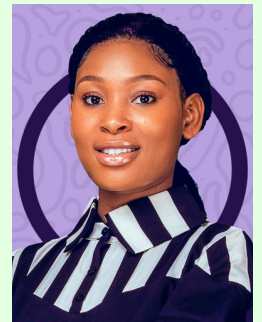
Ms Sharon Chan

Editor-in-Chief of Paulinian Post
English and Computer Studies

'Hello! I am from Nigeria. I speak 6 languages fluently and I understand about 9 languages. One of my favourite languages is English and I am excited about teaching it at SPPCS.'

Ms Esther Airemionkhale

English Language Teaching Assistant (ELTA)



'Hi everyone! I am super excited to teach you English and am looking forward to a fun filled year ahead. Don't forget to say hello if you see me around school!'

Ms Ann-Marie Young

Native-speaking English Teacher (NET)

'Hi, students! I feel excited to see all of you and teach some of you this year! I like travelling and cute animals like Shiba Inu. If you see me in the corridor, come and chat with me!'

Ms Vicky Lam
English and Music



FROM AS SCARED AS A RABBIT TO SETTLING IN

My First Day at St. Paul's Primary Catholic School

Below is a memoir from our alumna, Ms Sharon Chan, who has returned to SPPCS as one of our new English teachers.

The memory of my first day of primary school lingers vividly, as though it occurred just yesterday. The moment I stepped through those big, intimidating yellow gates, looking up at the steep stairs, I couldn't help but feel a mix of excitement and nerves. My little heart pounded in my little chest, and my little palms clutched my black backpack tightly, hoping it would somehow give me a sense of security.

As I entered the bustling schoolyard, I was surrounded by unfamiliar faces. I felt like a tiny fish in a gigantic ocean. The fear crept up on me that everyone already knew each other from kindergarten and I was the odd one out.

I stood alone in the queue that wrote 1D. My class teacher, Miss Lai, greeted me warmly and brought me to the class.

Throughout the day, I sat quietly at my desk, observing my classmates and trying to blend in. The lessons felt overwhelming, but I was also daydreaming half of the time. As the day progressed, something unexpected happened. A few kids approached me during recess, asking if I wanted to play with them.

With a glimmer of hope, I joined their games. We played catch, hopscotch, shared snacks, and laughed together. In those moments, my fear began to fade away, replaced by a sense of belonging. These kids did not see me as an outsider; they saw me as a friend.

The days turned into weeks. My apprehension slowly transformed into excitement. I started to look forward to going to school, eager to see my classmates and learn something new each day so I could share with my little brother at home.



I discovered that school was not just about textbooks and exams. It was about forging connections, exploring new ideas, and growing as an individual. I found solace in the library, where I could dive into captivating stories and embark on incredible journeys without leaving my chair. I have been a couch potato since a very young age. I was given the opportunity to join extracurricular activities that made me braver and more outspoken.

Looking back on the first day of primary school, it taught me valuable lessons. It reminded me that stepping out of my comfort zone, although daunting at first, can lead to incredible experiences and lifelong friendships. It also taught me settling in a new environment takes time, patience, and an open heart.

Now, as I reminisce about the sweet days of girlhood, I realise how far I have come from that shy little kid on the first day to a teacher speaking in front of the whole class. I am grateful for the memories, the challenges, and the moments of triumph that shaped me into the person I am today.

Primary school was a fruitful chapter filled with growth, learning, and joy. I hope you all will find the same or an even better experience in our St. Paul's family.



BIG SIS TO LIL SIS

Here are some encouragements from our big sisters to our little sisters.

'Listen to teachers and
prefects. No swearing!'
~ Ellie Ho 6A

'Be silly and goofy!'
~ Vienna Wu 6B

'Eat and drink.
Stay hydrated!'

'Keeping good manners.
Take turn speaking.'
~ Idy Lam 5C

'Respect everyone in
the school! Be nice to
your classmates.'
~ Estee Lee 6A

STUDY HARD!
~ from all P.6s

'Pay attention in class!
Hand in your homework
on time!'
~ Sophia Leung 5C

Mid-Autumn Festival Broadcast

During the morning assembly on September 25th, 2023, two P3 students, Kristen To (K) and Carissa Leung (C), delighted our teacher, Ms Sharon Chan (S) and our ELTA, Ms. Esther (E), with a captivating introduction to Mid-Autumn Festival. Their enthusiastic delivery and insightful explanations fostered a deeper appreciation for this cherished cultural celebration.

K: Good morning Principal Kwan, teachers and fellow schoolmates. I am Kristen To of 3D.

C: And I am Carissa Leung of 3D. Today, we are here with Ms Sharon Chan and Ms Esther because we'd like to introduce a traditional Chinese holiday, Mid-Autumn Festival, to them.

K: Wait Carissa. Why Ms Chan? Obviously she knows about the festival.

S: You're not wrong, Kristen. But I haven't celebrated Mid-autumn Festival for a long long while. It'd be great if you can refresh my memory and tell Ms Esther more about it! Ms Esther, have you heard of Mid-Autumn Festival prior coming to Hong Kong?

E: No, I have no idea! But I'd love to know more. Please, go ahead, girls.

K: Let me tell you, Ms Esther! Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as Moon Festival, is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, which usually falls in September or October. It's a time for family reunions and giving thanks.

E: I see, but why is it called Mid-Autumn Festival?

C: Good question! I know this one! It's called Mid-Autumn Festival because it occurs in the middle of autumn when the moon is believed to be at its fullest and brightest.

S: Exactly! During the festival, families and friends gather outdoors to appreciate the full moon. We gaze at the moon. It is believed that when the moon is at its brightest, it brings good luck and happiness. So let's go moon-gazing!

E: Wow, that sounds like a peaceful and beautiful experience. Are there any other customs or activities during the festival?

K: Oh, yes! One popular activity is the fire dragon dance in Tai Hang. It involves a team of people holding a long, colorful dragon-shaped figure and performing a dance. It's believed to bring good fortune and drive away evil spirits.



Mid-Autumn Festival Broadcast

C: Another significant element of the festival is the mooncakes. They are round pastries filled with various ingredients like lotus seed paste, red bean paste, and salted egg yolks. They symbolise unity and completeness.

E: Hmm. Mooncakes sound delicious! Are there any other traditions associated with the festival?

S: Absolutely! Lanterns play a big role during Mid-Autumn Festival. People, especially children, carry and light lanterns of all shapes and sizes. Our Paulinians actually brought a lot of lanterns back to school for display. You can go check it out! BUT, I kindly request that you resist the urge to touch the lanterns, as we wouldn't want any accidental spells or unexpected transformation. And students, please follow the teacher's lead and keep our little hands off the lanterns too!

E: Haha. Will do. That sounds lovely! Is there any special significance behind the lanterns?

K: Yes, there is! Lanterns symbolise lighting the way and warding off evil spirits. They are also often decorated with elaborate designs and painted with various scenes like animals, flowers, or traditional symbols.

C: And let's not forget about the storytelling sessions where myths and legends related to Moon Festival are shared. It's a great way to pass on traditional stories and cultural values to younger generations.

E: You're definitely passing on the message! Now I know more about the customs and traditions. Thank you so much for sharing this with us.

S: You're welcome! We're glad you enjoyed learning about Mid-Autumn Festival. It's a special time for Chinese families to come together, celebrate, and have fun! If you have any more questions or want to know more, feel free to ask. I'm sure our Paulinians would love to help!

E: Yes, I will! Thank you again! This has been a fascinating introduction to Mid-Autumn Festival. Do share more about it when you see Miss Marie or me around the corridors!

C&K: That's the end of our sharing. Happy Mid-Autumn Festival! Thank you.





The Day I Turned into an Animal

By Bella Lee 4A

Yesterday, I went to a zoo and saw giraffes, eagles, and pandas. There were a lot of animals, but I found parrots the most fascinating. It was incredibly pretty and colourful. It had a sharp beak for attacking, and could fly freely as long as it had a mini chain to prevent it from getting lost. But the best thing about the parrot was its ability to talk and sing. I was captivated by its talents. The zookeeper noticed my interest and allowed me to hold and play with the parrot. This made the other children jealous and angry because they also wanted a turn. I sighed as I stroked the parrot. *How I wished I could be a parrot!*

Last night, I tossed and turned in my bed, struggling to go to sleep. I felt something strange, almost like a heartburn. However, I chose to ignore it and went back to sleep. I heard a voice.

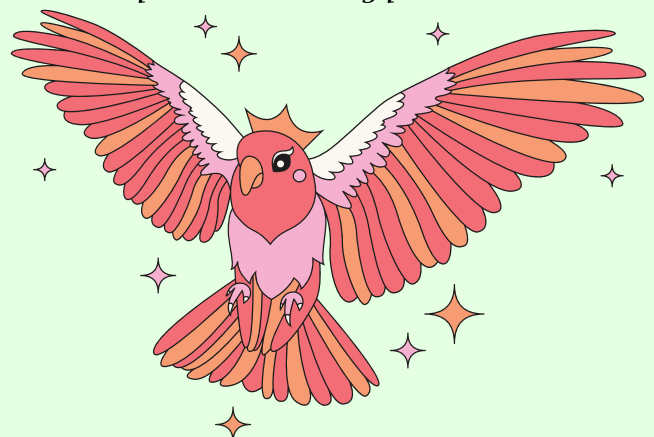
'Child, you have decided to be a parrot, and, I, The Divine Being, will grant you thy wish. You may live as a parrot from now on.' The omnipotent voice echoed in my dream.

'Yes, I want to be a parrot, please!' I thought to myself. The Divine Being pointed at me, and magic began to shoot from his fingertips. A beam of power struck me. My hands transformed into wings, and my mouth turned into a sharp beak. I started flapping my wings and experienced the joy of flying. It was the happiest moment of my life.

When I woke up, I thought it was a fantastic dream. I hopped to the bathroom happily. However, when I looked in the mirror, I saw a parrot! I was still a parrot. *Oh no! Things couldn't get any worse. How could I explain this to my parents?*

'AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!'

I was overcome with fear and screamed at the top of my lungs. Then, I remembered that parrots could talk. I flew to my sister and told her about my dream, but she didn't believe me and said, 'Get out of that weird costume!'

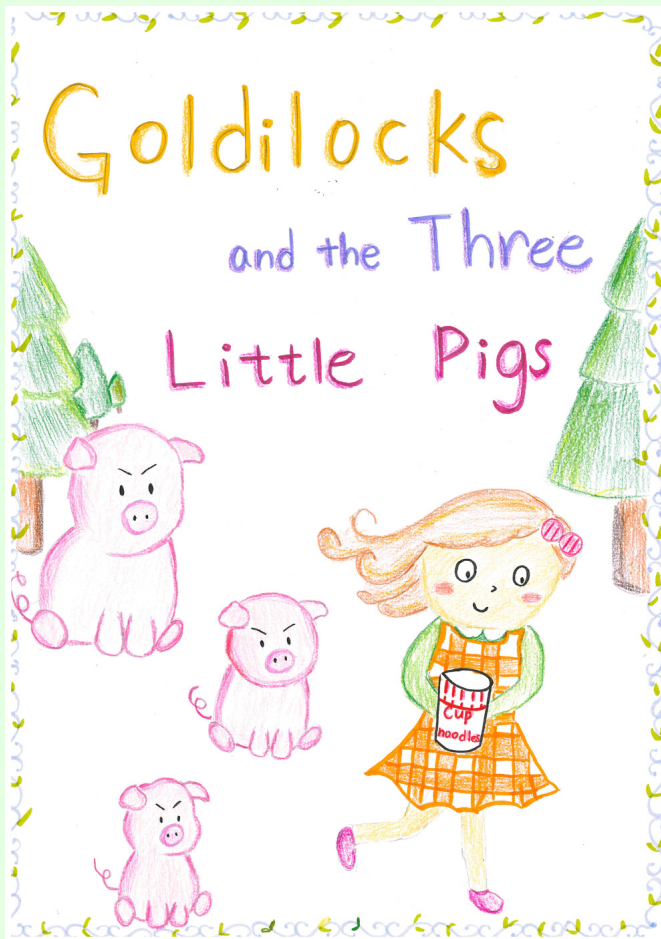


'I'm telling the truth!' I insisted and flapped my wings to show her. My sister was shocked. 'Oh no! Hide!' She exclaimed and pushed me into her closet. She placed her index finger on her lips and motioned for me to be quiet. *What on earth was happening?*

Student Submission - Short Story

Goldilocks and the Three Little Pigs

By Carlene Cheung 5A

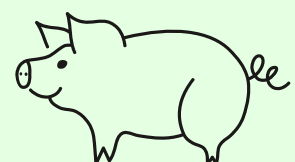


One day, there was full of sunshine and breeze. The three little pigs were back from a stroll. They noticed that the chimney was broken and filled with dust. The first pig insisted that they should not go inside the house. He smelt something strange and suggested that they should call the police. The other two pigs agreed.

The police were very efficient. Two officers together with a police dog arrived in a minute. The three little pigs followed them to the kitchen and found out that their cup noodles were all gone without a trace. When the cops were inspecting the rest of the house, they discovered that the door of the pigs' bedroom was open. They then went inside to have a look.

Oh, no! Goldilocks was sleeping in the third pig's bed. It was definitely her modus operandi that she had slept in the beds. The cops wanted to arrest her at once. However, she jumped off the bed and then out the window.

Fortunately, the intelligent police dog barked loudly at Goldilocks. She was stunned and stood petrified. The police officers took the chance immediately and handcuffed her. Thanks to the police dog!



People We Admire

After learning and reading about inspiring people, primary 5 students have thought of a person that inspires them a lot. They wrote about what they admire him/her.

Whom do you admire? I admire Siobhan Haughey.

Siobhan Haughey is an athlete, she swims as fast as lightning. When she was young, her parents wanted her to know how to swim because it was a survival skill but she didn't like it. She looked forward one day to saying goodbye to swimming. But then something amazing happened to make her fall in love with it.

In 2021, Siobhan Haughey won two silver medals at the Tokyo Games. Someone said that she was a flying fish! She is one of only two Hong Kong Olympians who have ever won two Olympic medals. She also said, "Now that I look back on it, it's kind of crazy and very tiring. But it's all worth it in the end!"

I admire Siobhan because she was hard working when she faced many tasks and difficulties. She was also modest when she got the Olympic medals. Her good habits always remind me to do things better and not to be a sloppy person.

What about you? Whom do you admire?

Written by
Giana Ip 6A

15th February, 2023



We're Recruiting! Calling for Writers and Editors!

Dear Paulinians,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as your Editor-in-Chief of the school newsletter. I'm Ms Sharon Chan, and I'm incredibly excited to embark on this journey of storytelling and creativity with all of you. As the editor, my goal is to bring forth a vibrant and engaging publication that truly represents the diverse voices and talents within our school community.

But here's the best part: I need your help to make it happen! I am inviting all of you talented writers, poets, thinkers, and artists to share your work with us. Whether you have a thought-provoking opinion piece, a captivating short story, a moving poem, or even a book recommendation that you can't stop raving about, we want to hear from you!

This newsletter is your platform to express yourselves, showcase your talents, and connect with your fellow students. Together, we can create a space where our voices can be heard and celebrated.

So, don't hesitate! Submit your work to us, and let's get it featured and published in our monthly newsletter. Whether you're an experienced writer or just starting to explore your creative side, your unique perspective matters. Let's inspire and entertain our school community with your words, ideas, and insights.

I can't wait to see the incredible contributions that each and every one of you will bring to our newsletter. Together, let's make this a publication that truly reflects the vibrant and talented Paulinian spirit.

Submit your pieces to scchan@sppcs.edu.hk and let's make your voices heard!

Best regards,

Ms Sharon Chan
Editor-in-Chief

