



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Miss Josie Condon

In this Issue

Welcome to the second edition of our school newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on all the exciting events and activities which have been happening at MASS. Highlights include: Halloween, Food party, Community Planting Day, trips to the Yakult Factory and Tai Tong Organic Eco Park, and an insight into our Christmas activities. Our next newsletter will be in 2017. Everyone at MASS would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Time flies like an arrow as 2016 almost comes to an end. I hope that you all had a memorable and fruitful 2016. This year marks a big milestone for MASS since we have finally secured a school site in Tai Po. The school address is DD26 Lot 989, Ting Kok Road, Tai Po. The school is now under refurbishment and it will be ready tentatively by March 2017.

I know many parents want to know more about the new school. So let me give you a brief introduction here. The school will be an international primary school in Phase 1. We will be following the British Key Stage Curriculum, with English as the main medium of instruction. In addition, students are required to study Chinese (Mandarin) and Spanish. In Phase 2, we will build new teaching blocks and more sports facilities, including a swimming pool. We will offer the IB MYP and IB Diploma programme. We anticipate that Phase 2 will be completed by year 2020. The new school will continue to unearth tomorrow's leaders by providing the highest calibre of education to our students. We are committed to inspire our students to enjoy learning, be able to learn on their own and develop a good learning habit. We hope that the school will open in September 2017, subject to the government's administrative process.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. Hope that we have more good news to announce in 2017!

Kind regards,
Adriana



Mark Your Diary

1. MASS Christmas Carol

Date: 17- Dec - 2016

Venue: outside Lee Garden I

Performers: K1, K2 and K3

2. Christmas Party

Date: 20 - Dec - 2016

Class: All

Santa Claus will be giving the presents to children who have participated in the gift exchange

3. Christmas Break

Date: 21 - Dec to 2 - Jan 2017

Class: All

4. Kidsfest Drama - Shark in the Park

Date: 13 - Jan - 2017

Venue: HKAPA, Wanchai

Class: All

5. Chinese New Year Party

Date: 25 - Jan - 2017

Class: All

K2 - K3 children will be visiting the flower market at the Victoria Park from 11:00am - 11:40am

Conceptual Design of the Primary School



Community Planting Day !

(7th October 2016)

It was great to give back to the community when K1, K2 and K3 joined the Victoria Park community planting day. We were first given an introductory talk about the importance of caring for the environment and was shown ways we could 'make Hong Kong beautiful'.

The children were each given gardening tools and colourful plants to grow. Children, parents and staff thoroughly enjoyed getting muddy, planting, digging and even searching for wiggly worms.

The event organisation was fantastic, it was very child-centered, engaging and lots of freedom was given to the children. Each child was lucky to choose their own plant to take home. A big thank you to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of Hong Kong. We all had a great day!



Halloween cum October Birthday Party !

(31st October 2016)

The children had a great time at our spooky MASS Halloween party.

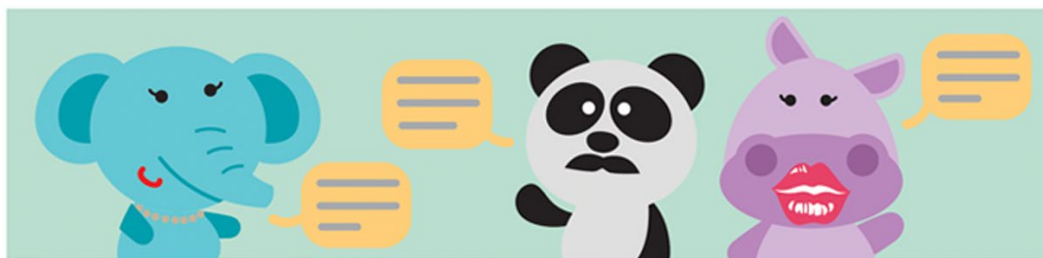
The K1, K2 and K3 dressed up like mummies, decorated cupcakes, and took part in a Halloween Touch and Feel game: touching 'brains', 'hair' and 'blood' (mushrooms, cotton wool and tomato juice). The children were very brave and really got into the Halloween spirit.

Our younger children in Pre-nursery also enjoyed cupcake making and Halloween dancing.

It was great to see so many fantastic costumes, all the children smiling and lots of candies being given. We all look forward to some more spoooooooooky fun next year!



Parents' Corner



Is Your Smartphone Affecting Your Relationship With Your Kids?

“It’s much harder to toggle between mom or dad brain and other aspects of life because the boundaries have all blurred together.”

By Hollee Actman Becker

Have you ever glanced down at your phone to momentarily check an incoming text or email or Facebook notification, when you should have been focusing on your kids? I know I have—after all, smartphones provide an easy break from the monotony of parenting and make multitasking a snap. But there’s also a downside. According to a new study published in the *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, when we use our smartphones around our young kids, we may be amping up the amount of conflict and tension in the house.

Why? Because the more we blur the lines between work, social, and home life, the more we feel like we’re in more than one place at once while trying to parent.

For the study, researchers interviewed 35 caregivers about multitasking smartphone use, and found that many of them complained it was affecting family routines. The caregivers also admitted to responding negatively to their kids after reading bad news or work-related emails, and confessed that when their kids tried to steal their attention away from their phones, they often snapped or yelled at them. Meanwhile, those same caregivers said their phones provided “an escape” from the boredom and stress of parenting, as well as an easy way to get work done from home.

“Parents are struggling to balance family time and the desire to be present at home with technology-based expectations like responding to work and other demands,” explained lead author Jenny Radesky, M.D., a child behavior expert and pediatrician at University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, in a statement. “It’s much harder to toggle between mom or dad brain and other aspects of life because the boundaries have all blurred together.”

Yikes! So now what?

Well for starters, keep in mind the study is small. And that according to Radesky, we shouldn’t be too hard on ourselves when it comes to giving our kids attention. “You don’t have to be available to your children 100% of the time,” she explained. “In fact, it’s healthy for them to be independent.”



It’s also important for parents to feel relevant at work and other parts of their lives, Radesky said. But if you’re feeling overloaded or exhausted from being pulled in so many different directions, it’s probably time to set boundaries. Some of her suggestions include: creating a family plan with unplugged spaces or times of day, using a filter or block on your device to avoid the temptation of too much tech use at home, and reserving the most stressful tasks for times when you know your kids are occupied.

Source: <http://www.parents.com>

School trip to the Yakult Factory !

(7th November 2016)



K1, K2 and K3 recently visited the Hong Kong Yakult Factory. It was an educational trip designed to teach the children all about the exciting factory process of producing Yakult.

To start, the Yakult factory staff gave an engaging talk and provided interactive videos, further explaining the health benefits of Yakult, whilst allowing each child to taste a Yakult ... Yum!

As we passed through the building you could see the changes in the Yakult packaging and promotions from past to present. It was great for children to visually see the history and evolution.

After an air shower we were taken through to the factory. First we saw the large machines which produced the great Yakult taste. This was then transported through tubes to the 'packaging' area. We could see the Yakult being bottled, labeled, sealed and wrapped. Each Yakult was then checked and passed through to the trucks.

The visit was very child-centered, and provided children with a great first factory experience. A great day for everyone!

School Picnic !

(11th November 2016)



It was great to see so many parents and children at the school picnic. The day started with a fun filled bus journey with the teachers doing a great job keeping both the children and parents entertained.

Upon arrival, the Tai Tong Organic Eco Park was a great setting for such a lovely day. It had a vast range of activities to entertain all families. These activities included: feeding farm animals, fishing, pony riding, go karting, bouncy castles, playgrounds, obstacle courses and everyone's favourite, the tuck shop, which had ice cream, cotton candy, popcorn and to-fu-fa!

It was great to see children, families and staff interacting with each other, sharing their picnic food, participating in team games and most importantly, smiling, laughing and enjoying themselves.

Thank you for your co-operation to make this day a success. It wouldn't have been possible without everyone's hard work. Team work is dream work!

November Birthday Party - Food Theme !

(25th November 2016)



Children really got into character as chefs, waitresses and a selection of food. Your creativity meant we were not partying with the children, and instead; Oreos, watermelon, soup, chickens, fried eggs and a tasty ice cream!

Firstly, we had a selection of food related games for the children to enjoy. The children took part in making tasty maltose crackers for themselves and their family to enjoy. They had to heat the maltose and spread it between two crackers ... Yummy!



Secondly, they 'Jumped for food'. The children had to jump as high as they could to catch some tasty seaweed. Children thoroughly enjoyed this game, even the younger children demonstrated some outstanding jumping and catching skills ... seaweed for everyone!



Finally the children took part in the 'Supermarket Sweep'. This required them to pick a recipe and then use their trolleys to visit the meat, vegetable and grains shops to collect their ingredients. To make it more exciting they had to race against their friends. Our children will be chefs in no time!



Up and Coming Christmas Events !

We hope you are all beginning to feel festive as it is the season to be jolly. We have lots of fun events coming up at MASS.

Our first event will be the Christmas Carol Singing Performance on Saturday 17th December. This event will be for K1, K2 and K3 but we encourage everyone to come and show their support. The children have been rehearsing since November and are really looking forward to showing you their singing and dancing talents.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday 17th December 2016

Time and Venue of the show: 2.30pm-3.15pm, outside Lee Garden One (33 Hysan Avenue, Causeway Bay)

Meeting time and Venue: 2.00pm at main entrance of Lee Garden One

Dress Code: Winter School Uniform and Santa hat (to be provided by school)

Our second Christmas event will be our MASS Christmas party. This will be held on Tuesday 20th December 2016. Dress code: Little Angels. Children can also dress in colours white or red. This will be a magical day for the children filled with lots of Christmas games and festivities. Please bring in a christmas gift (budget of HK\$50) for exchange if your child would like to participate in Secret Santa.

We hope you are all ready to celebrate our MASS Christmas!

Last but not least, we wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy and eventful 2017!



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