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Authenticity and Memory

Time flies and we have the countdown to the celebration of Christmas and it is the festive period in which all the shops are decorated with colourful and flashing bulbs, and attractive figures



like Santa Claus and fairies. People are queuing up, hoping to take photos with Santa Claus living in a cosy and comfy house in a shopping center. All these authentic products and symbols have built up the festive atmosphere, which has touched most of the citizens at the end of every year. This has shown that authenticity can be a way to consolidate the memory process of each of the learners and it is the effective means for learners to brush up their English competence.

According to a famous linguist Jack Richards, authentic materials refer to the use of texts, photographs, video selections, and other daily necessities that are not originally prepared for teaching. However, teachers can use them to bring in more fun and meaning to real life. This can improve the communication between students and teachers. It is believed that authentic materials can motivate students to learn more effectively.

We believe in the power and effectiveness of authentic materials because they are so close to the daily experiences of the students who will be more interested in understanding them better. Students will be more motivated to use the language strongly for expressing their feelings with the authentic materials. The content of the materials may not matter very much, but they have already stimulated the students to use the language for understanding the practical environment. This has been the foundation for our school to use the authentic environment to encourage the students to learn English in their daily life. Some examples are related to the establishment of the Nature Education Trail in which the students will be exposed to different English words like fish pond, flowers, marble path, butterfly house and Chinese herbs corner. Through daily encounters with the environment, the students will understand the meaning of different English words and this can facilitate their understanding of the English world.

Memory is also part of our authentic world. With the accumulation of experiences in the authentic world, people will have ample opportunities to retain more sentence patterns and vocabularies for communicative purpose. That is the reason why it is our aspiration to encourage our students to learn from the rich experience of Tung Wah Chairman, Sze Wing Hang, Ivan, School Founder, the Gaw's family and School Supervisor, Mr Sunny Tan. The students will know how people use the language for interactions in the business world. As well, the students will also be motivated to know how their schoolmates use the target language to express their feelings with different scenarios and lifestyles in Hong Kong life. This will be one of the sections in our Islander.

Authentic materials are even more relevant to students. If they are to function in a foreign society, they will have to get accustomed to all the trivial reading items that they will encounter every day. So if the students actually need to be able to communicate and interact socially in the target language environment, authentic materials seem an essential preparation for their task. Being able to cope with an English train timetable, to tell if they have the right ticket, to know which notices are important and addressed to them and which are not, all these are vital to their communicative purpose.

Memory and Blessing

Memory is an indispensable part of human beings. With memories, we are getting more experienced. With memories, we will be mature and know how to deal with adversities and challenges. With memories, we will know how to avoid mistakes again and we will be stronger and stronger in every aspect. In our traditional saying, it is always said, "if you do not listen to the advice of the mature, you will suffer a lot at the end." It is of great importance to open up our ears and listen to the advice and experience expressed by the prominent and influential leaders about how they apply their problem-solving skills and communication skills to deal with macro and micro problems.

In the face of helping the students to accumulate more valuable experiences, we have spent a long time interviewing different successful business people in different sectors of the business world and they are all working hard to contribute to the betterment of our society. Their sharing can help people to be more resilient to the challenges in the future. We believe that their sharing of experience will benefit our students since their experience extends to the developments in Hong Kong, China and the whole world. By listening to the great leaders, our students will make a great leap by absorbing more knowledge to deal with different adversities and difficulties.

More importantly, all of the leaders we have interviewed, are closely related to our school since they are Tung Wah Chairman (2014-2015) Mr Sze Wing Hang, Ivan, School Founder, Ms Rossana Gaw and her family, and our School Supervisor, Mr Sunny Tan who are showing their expectations and blessings to our students in different school occasions. They are so selfless in sharing their valuable experiences with our students. In the following will be the summaries of their interviews with our student reporters. For details, you are highly recommended to surf our school website for the updated information.

Generous Donation from the Gaw Family

Since the school was established in 1984, the Gaw family has been our staunch supporter. To mark our thirtieth anniversary they have donated a large sum of money to refit our student activity centre into a state-of-art multipurpose lecture theatre.



Interview with VIPs:

S. C. Gaw Memorial College in Close Connection with Gaw's Family



In order to actualize and realize our hope to design and devise the school-based curriculum to infuse values education in our curriculum, and to let our students learn from the contributions of Gaw's family towards education, the business world, TWGHs and our school, three of our Form 5 students, Lee Cheong Wai, Brian, Law Pui Kwan and Tse Chak Lam had a glorious and delightful opportunity to visit and interview the whole Gaw's family for information to design the school-based learning and teaching materials for the benefits of the students in the academic year 2014-2015 onwards.

Before the interview, the students endeavored to design different types of interviewing questions to elicit responses from the renowned, reputed and respectful Gaw's family members in the following aspects:

- Opportunities and threats facing hotel and catering industry in the world;
- Development of Hospitality Industry in Hong Kong and China;
- Influence of globalization on the development of hotel industry;
- Importance of education to the next generation;
- Influence of globalization on the growth of teenagers;
- Reasons for Gaw family's interest in sponsoring education;
- Perceptions of Gaw's family towards TWGHs values.

The students were all impressed with the interview because they have learnt how to be more confident in front of VIPs and to present their questions in a clear, articulate and eloquent way. Also, they said that they enjoyed the interviewing time with the Gaw's family in a friendly manner.

Our Students Interviewing our School Supervisor Sunny Tan



On 1st August, 2014, five of our students accompanied by our Principal spent the whole morning interviewing our School Supervisor, Mr. Sunny Tan at Luen Thai Holdings Limited in Kwun Tong. Our students have worked very hard and prepared a number of questions related to the opportunities and threats facing manufacturing industry in the world, the influence of globalization on the development of manufacturing industry, the development of clothing, apparels and accessories in Hong Kong, China and other parts of the world, the importance of education to the next generation, and the influence of globalization on the growth of teenagers. As well, our students have been showing their interests in finding out the reasons why the Tan's family is so interested in sponsoring education in TWGHs and our School Supervisor's father, Dr. Tan Siu Lin is so devoted to promoting Confucius values in China education. Mr. Sunny Tan has a deeplyfelt view on education and has shown his eagerness in providing his knowledge and sharing his experience with our student reporters, who all expressed that they had the wonderful time to learn from our School Supervisor, Mr. Sunny Tan.

Throughout our interview with Mr. Sunny Tan, it was coincident for our student reporters to meet up our School Supervisor's father, Dr. Tan Siu Lin and it is our great honour to have taken photos with him in his office.

Generous Donations from Sunny Tan



Our students Interviewing our TW Chairman Sze Wing Hang, Ivan



On 28th August, 2014, a group of our students, teaching staff and technicians accompanied by our Principal spent the whole morning interviewing our Chairman, Mr Sze Wing Hang, Ivan at the Headquarter of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in Po Yan Street. Our students have worked very hard and prepared a number of questions related to the opportunities and threats facing real estates in China, the influence of globalization on the development of real estates in China, the differences between Shanghai and Hong Kong, the importance of education to the next generation, and his expectations on the growth of teenagers. The students were touched by Mr. Sze's enthusiasm in responding to the questions related to the recent development of China and he tried to provide ample examples to widen the horizons of the students. His knowledge about the construction industry in China has helped our students understand more about China in another perspective. It is known that ignorance is the main obstacle leading to misunderstanding. By listening to the explanations provided by Mr. Sze, our students have had deeper understanding of China, which is also a place caring about the living standard of her citizens.

As well, our students have been showing their interests in finding out the reasons why Mr. Sze is so dedicated to TWGHs and he has shown his blueprint planning in the development of TWGHs in terms of medical and welfare aspects. In the interview, the students have had a great time to learn from a prominent public figure and philanthropist who is highly involved in contributing to the development of China on the one hand, and spends his time on leading a famous charitable organization to encounter different kinds of challenges in Hong Kong on the other hand.

Generous Donations from Ivan Sze



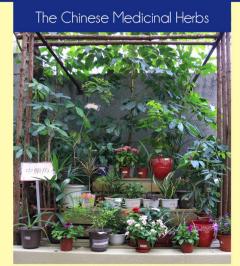
remains to be our patron. This year, to celebrate our thirtieth anniversary,

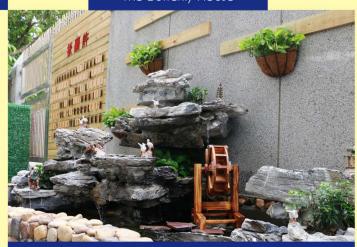


The Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque



The Butterfly House





The Fish Pond

Reminiscence of Memory

The following is the excerpt of an old song named as "Yesterday Once More" by Carpenter:

When I was young
I'd listen to the radio
Waiting for my favorite songs
When they played I'd sing along
It made me smile.

Those were such happy times
And not so long ago
How I wondered where they'd gone
But they're back again
Just like a long lost friend

Thinking about the good old days can serve as emotional soothing. Experiencing nostalgia has been thought of as a means to gain happiness, satisfaction and enrichment. Nowadays, more people are more interested in understanding the ups and downs of nostalgia, and have determined that there are quite a few positive effects of nostalgic thinking including feeling warmer on a chilly day when thinking of glorious victories in the past.

Research has shown that nostalgia can counteract loneliness, boredom and anxiety. What is more, it makes people more generous to strangers and more tolerant of outsiders," Recalling memory can help establish the collective identity of an organization and they think they will gain the support from their group. As a result, they will not feel depressed and lonely so easily.

We hope that using nostalgia is almost like a therapy: By looking at the old photos of the school, different stakeholders will feel proud of the school and develop a sense of belonging with the school. The photos will be treated as a bond to link up all people together as family.

Down Memory Lane



Down Memory Lane: 30 Years of Fond Memories









Typing Lesson







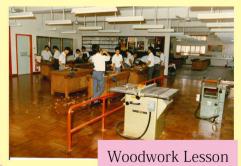








The Unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque



















Down Memory Lane: 30 Years of Fond Memories

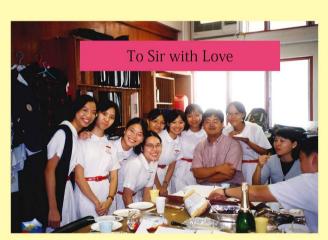


















This year we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of our school. Anniversay celebration always evokes fond memories shared by the same group of people. Shared memories play a crucial role in creating group identity and bonds among group members. Recently collective memory has become the catch phrase in our city's debate over heritage conservation. People here are now eager to preserve their cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. Last year our English teachers asked the form four students to do a project on Hong Kong's collective memory. We have chosen one of their projects and published it here.

FISHBALLS - A SNACK FOR EVERYONE

Mok Ka man



Fishballs are a common snack in Hong Kong. Most of the food shops in Hong Kong are selling them and people like eating them in the streets. The above photo was taken in Cheung Chau, an island that people like to go to for its fishballs. There is a child eating fishballs at the streetside. This photo shows that in Hong Kong not only adults but also children love eating fishballs. This picture is meaningful to me beacause it reminds me of my childhood. When I was small, my parents would walk me home after school. They always took me to have fishballs with them on our way home and we all enjoyed this short journey of food and fun.



PUT ZHAI GOU - A TRUE LOCAL FLAVOUR

Tsan Ka Yan



Steamed red bean pudding, also known as steamed red bean cake, is one of the traditional local snacks in Hong Kong. In Cantonese this snack is called "Put Zhai Gou", of which "steamed red bean cake or pudding" is not a direct or exact translation. Steamed red bean cake is brownish in color, which is caused by the brown sugar used in its making. It is made in a small bowl to create the pudding shape.

Steamed red bean pudding is not expensive and it is affordable to a student with limited pocket money. So I can buy it by myself. In the photo, we can see an old man smiling and handing out steamed red bean pudding to a little girl. Also, we can see that there is a foreign chlid holding a steamed red bean pudding too. It shows that this street food is not only popular among the locals, but also well-liked by people from other countries. When I was a chlid, I always ate steamed red bean pudding with my sister.



EGG TARTS - ICON OF HONG KONG

Wong Wing Sze



This photo was taken in a tea restaurant in Hong Kong, known as "cha chaan ten" to the locals, where Hong Kong people can go to have some local food. There are five egg tarts in the foreground with two cups of hot milk tea at the back. We can

clearly see the shinny solidified egg-yoke mixture on the top of the egg tarts. The outer layer of the egg tarts is crunchy. This picture is meaningful to all Hong Kong people as egg tarts are so popular in Hong Kong that they have become one of Hong Kong's icons. When we are asked to name one local snack to represent Hong Kong, egg tarts are the choice for almost every one. When I was in primary school, I always went to the cha chaan teng next to my school to buy egg tarts. Egg tarts are very yummy but not very expensive. I enjoy eating egg tarts at home, so my home is always filled with the aroma of egg tarts.



EGG PUFF - SNACK ON WHEELS

Lai Sze Wai

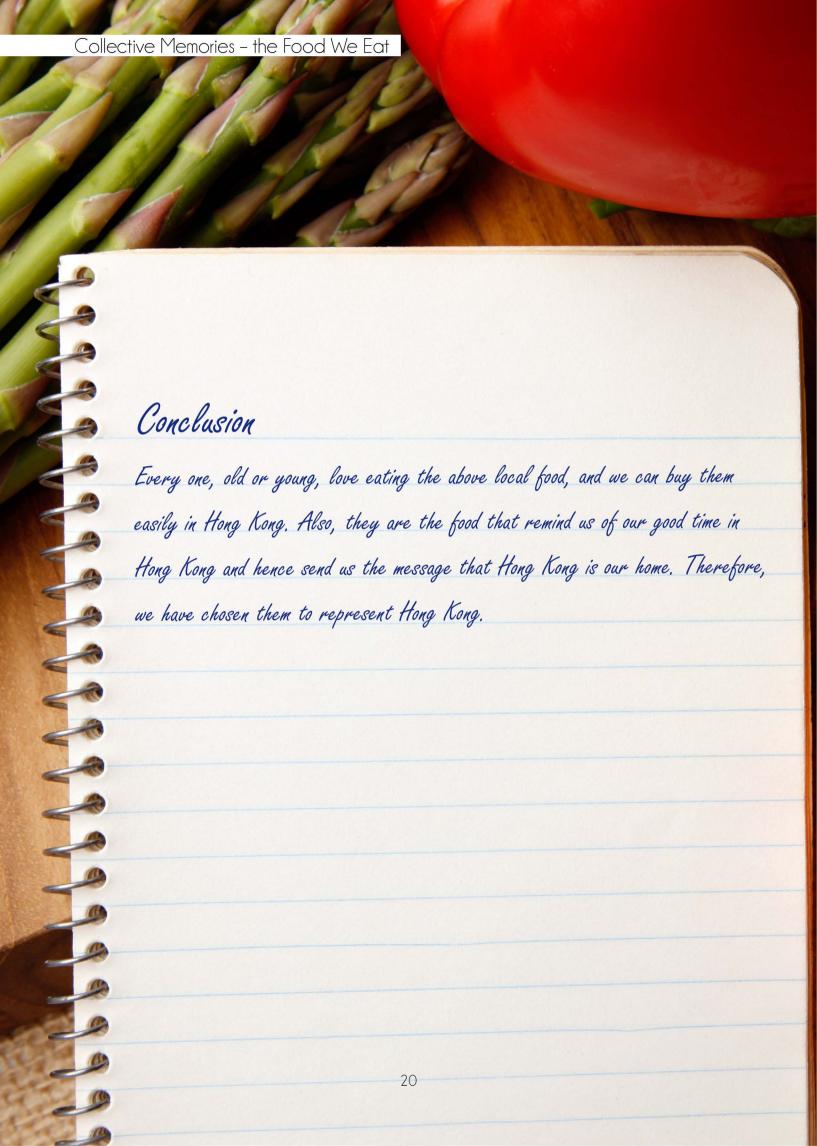


This photo shows an old man in Tsing Yi selling egg puff baked in charcoal fire. He has been in the trade for a long time. Despite having his arm broken in an accident, he went on with his business: selling egg puff to the locals.

My mother bought me my first egg puff from this old man, Uncle Wong, when I was still a little child. Since then, Uncle Wong has become my idol. His egg puff is yummy. Unlike those sold in a bakery which have been made hours before you buy them, his egg puff is always fresh and crispy because he will only make it when you have placed the order.

Uncle Wong is my idol not just because he can make tasty egg puff. He is also kind-hearted. I once saw him give out egg puff to a homeless man. I was really touched at that moment. To me, Uncle Wong is always a successful egg puff seller.





Each year the S.C.Gaw family takes in around a hundred and thirty plus form one students. They come here with mixed feelings. They have left their friends and teachers and come to a new environment. They are not sure if they can get used to the new school. On the other hand, they come with great expectations. They are here to make new friends and realize their untapped potential. In this issue of Islander, some students have written down how they overcome their fear and embark on a journey of exploration and discovery.





NG KIE YIU KIKO

This summer, my schoolmates and I joined the S1 Orientation Camp. This camp aimed at training us to become independent and disciplined. Although we had to go through a lot of training, we found the camp useful. In addition to the training, we also played some games. The games helped us to understand ourselves better. I liked this camp.



CHENG HOI LAM

My class is full of happiness. Once the teacher steps into the classroom, we all cheer and laugh. Laughter fills the classroom and we start to flip over the textbook and begin a new lesson. Every day is a new lesson for me because I learn different things every day.



CHUNG WING KIU

The S1 Orientation Camp was hard and exhausting because we had to do a lot of fitness exercise. However I was happy in the camp because I met a lot of new friends. The most memorable thing was cooking together. We needed to cook our own meal.



WONG CHI SHING

I am very happy in my secondary school. I can play and study with my best friends together. I always play basketball in the school playground. I like science lessons because I can do experiments in the laboratory.



SUEN KA SIN

In this summer holiday, we had the S1 Orientation Camp. We played different games in the camp and we needed to cook by ourselves.



Yeung Chun Ming

In my secondary school, there are many happy things. I meet a lot of new teachers, classmates and friends. It is a new and comfortable environment. There are many new and interesting subjects for us to learn. I like science lessons because we do experiments in the laboratory. There are also many activities for us to join. I have joined the table tennis club and the coach has chosen me to be a school team member. I have to train every Tuesday and Thursday. I hope I can play for my school in the future.

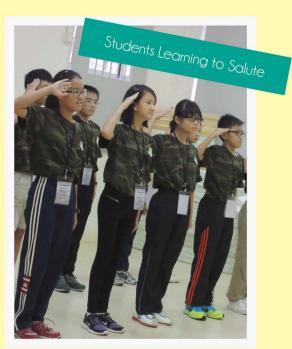
Sweet Memories - Secondary One Training Camp











Sweet Memories - Secondary One Training Camp







Kong Yan Ming

My Camp Days in the Holiday



In my summer holiday, I went to a school training camp with my classmates. It was fun and I felt excited. I made many new friends there. We did lots of things together and encouraged each other. There are so many precious memories of the camp in my mind.

Maybe others might feel that it was not a very important activity. However, it was very important to me. On the second day of the camp, we played three different games. The first one was climbing trees. It was very difficult for me. I tried to climb again and again but failed again and again. I was not strong enough to climb. Detter, my new friend in school, encouraged me. "Don't give up! You can do it." I was touched by his encouragement. His words gave me energy. I used all my strength to climb. Finally, although I could not climb high, the instructor let me pass the game because I had tried my best.

Another thing that touched me very much happened in the last game, orienteering. I was really afraid of this game because I hate small animals in the wild very much. Detter and I were in the same group. We walked together along a trail in the countryside. Detter knew that I did not like walking in the wide, so he kept talking with me about his family so as to divert my attention and make me less nervous. Suddenly I tripped over a stone and sprained my ankle. I could not move. Detter told me to stay at where we were and he ran back to the camp site to seek help. Finally the instructors found me. I was carried to the sick room and found Detter there. He was hurt when running back to the camp site. "I'm sorry," I said to him. "No need to say sorry. We're friends."

I grew up a lot in this camp and learnt to be a responsible person. I made a lot of friends. One of them, Detter, has become my best friend. I know whenever I am in trouble, Detter will come to help me.





Yu Wai Ching

My training camp in the summer holiday

This summer holiday, our school asked all the form one students to go to a training camp. In the morning of the first day of the camp, I heard some good news. The camp was suspended because of the black rainstorm signal. I was happy about it. But one hour later, my mum told me that the school had sent her a message, saying that we needed to go to school at one o'clock in the afternoon. When we arrived at the school, the school buses were already there waiting for us.

When we were at the campsite, we needed to behave ourselves and be polite to the instructors and our classmates. We also needed to cook the meals ourselves. It was really difficult for us to cook by ourselves. When we had our meals, we had to finish all the food given to us. If we did not, we would be punished by the instructors of the camp.

At night we had to sleep on the floor of the activity room. It was a very unforgettable experience for most of us. I had to share the room with another eight girls. Luckily they were very nice to me and we had become good friends. We played together all night.

We learnt Chinese foot drills at the camp. It was very hard. We needed to stand very straight. The instructors were strict. At the second night of the camp, I was crying because I felt very tired and missed my family very much. Luckily I could go home the next day.

When I was home, I felt very happy. I could see my parents again.

