

S. C. Gaw --- An EMI School at a Winning Edge

S. C. Gawers --- An Avid Reader in a Life-wide English Learning Environment

The key to success in the learning of English or any other language lies in motivation and what is a better motivator than fun. When the element of fun is introduced, the whole classroom lightens up and real learning begins. Teachers must not be confined by traditional pedagogy but think 'outside the box' and experiment with the most innovative, incredible, even far-fetched ideas to sugar the pill which makes learning palatable and memorable.

The element of fun in the teaching of English is introduced into the classroom at S. C. Gaw for example in Life-wide English lessons with learning through competitive games and creative lesson design, like staging Language Art activities, English Games Day, Inter-class English Drama and English Musicals.

Time is limited if language learning occurs only within the classroom setting. Constant exposure to the language is essential and can be provided by creating an English-rich environment within the school campus. This is done through a series of English activities organized and spread out all through the school year. SCGMC has succeeded in doing so with activities during festivals like having a Halloween Fair, inter-class drama competition; Christmas caroling, a Chinese New Year Fair English games booth, an Easter Egg Hunt and joining the Global fruit day, with fruit dipped in chocolate for active learners of English.

Competition is a great way of learning a language as winning it is a great stimulant. SCGMC has a measure of success with winners in the annual Schools' Speech Festival. In the Speech Festivals of 2011 & 2012, the results had been promising. In this year, we have made our first attempt of entry to the Inter-school Drama Competition for English Drama section. No matter the results may be, it is a new start and an eye-opener for all --- the interest in English Drama will be enhanced with inviting English performing groups performed at S. C. Gaw.

English workshops will be held to enhance students' English language skills while After-school Great Movies are shown every day to increase students' exposure to an authentic English environment. An English workshop for S4 has been organized for developing critical thinking capacity. Students found it a very exciting and fun-filled learning experience. A bridging workshop was organized to initiate the new S1 students in summer. For S4 to S6, a creative writing workshop is to be held in the Second Term.

To deal with diversity in learning abilities, remedial classes are held after school and enhancement classes are offered to the more able students. The latter will be ended as a Language-across-Curriculum initiative in a very new "English tea experience" in the Second Term, where they will be introduced to the etiquette and table manners expected, the table setting, the food and various kinds of tea. Students' work will be exhibited during a Looking at Student Work exhibition week. A book fair will be held during World Book Day in April. All these go together with regular activities include an English speaking system, English ambassadors, an English Café, and activities in the English Learning Centre.

At SCGMC, a lot of emphasis is placed on English and a lot has been done to boost its status as an EMI school.

From,
Ms Agnes Tang
Principal