

Thrive at E-Smart

July 2017

From the Headmaster's Desk

Hatred can rot away at a person's intelligence and conscience. Enemy mentality will poison the spirit of a nation, incite cruel mortal struggles, destroy a society's tolerance and humanity, and hinder a nation's progress toward freedom and democracy. Freedom of expression is the foundation of human rights, the source of humanity, and the mother of truth. To strangle freedom of speech is to trample on human rights, stifle humanity, and suppress truth.

- Liu Xiaobo, 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Lecture

'He (Clive Chan) anticipates that democracy will come to China with economic prosperity. "But there is huge wealth disparity, and maintaining social stability is the major challenge for President Jiang Zemin."

- Rowan Callick, Australian Financial Review, 30 June 1997

Australian-made property prodigy stays put

Rowan Callick talks to Australians about prospects after the handover.

Clive Chan, an associate director of Jones Lang Wootton who specialises in the Australian and British property markets, is one of about 80,000 Hong Kongers who have become Australian citizens. And he intends both to hold on to his passport and to stay in Hong Kong, where he returned three years ago, after China takes over tomorrow.

His parents moved to Hong Kong from China after the communists took control in 1949. Then Chan followed in their footsteps, quitting Hong Kong because he was scared of political uncertainty after June 4, 1989 – the Tiananmen massacre.

He was then a social worker, as was his wife, Nathalie. Looking for a way out of Hong Kong, he went to the Australian Consulate, saw an advertisement for an MBA scholarship for the University of NSW, applied and won it, while his wife was granted entry as a migrant.

At the end of the course, he was head-hunted by J.L.W. – which has 70 offices around the world – and shifted to Melbourne where he managed the Asian desk. There Chan, who speaks Cantonese and Mandarin as well as English,

helped clients – mainly from Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong – invest chiefly in commercial property, where they grabbed almost half the market. The family lived in Glen Waverley.

Meanwhile, back in Hong Kong, Chan's parents had bought an extra apartment in the building they lived in, in Kowloon Tong, on the expectation that he and his family (which now included two sons) would return. They did.

Jones Lang Wootton brought Chan back to Hong Kong – a move that suited his wife, who had failed to acclimatise to Melbourne's winters. His present business, based at a premium office in Pacific Place, is quite a contrast to his former work, which was carried out in prisons and on housing estates. Now Chan deals with the wealthiest 1-2 per cent.

"And I found myself having to adjust to the pace of Hong Kong," said Chan. "But I'm fine now."

Last year he was involved in the biggest overseas property deal in Australia – the sale for about \$240 million of 333 Collins Street, Melbourne, to the Kwok family who control Hong Kong retail institution Wing On. In April he negotiated the \$37 million sale for a Hong Kong investor of the Elizabeth Plaza office tower in North Sydney, for a 30 per cent profit in three years.

The Hanson affair had its first impact on a sale recently, he said, when a potential investor pulled out of a deal because his children – for whom the property was intended – no longer wished to study in Australia.

Chan has a database of 500 companies and individuals who are potential investors in Australian commercial property and he also advises Australian clients on the Chinese market.

His boss has asked him whether he would like to head the international desk in Sydney.

"But we want to witness the changeover here and see it through," said Chan. "And it's easier to raise our children here where we have family and domestic help from the Philippines."

He keeps in close contact with a group of Hong Kongers who went to Australia at the same time and have also returned.

QUALITY OF LIFE
China is the third-largest country in the world: its 9.6 m sq km take up one-fifth of the globe's land mass, and compare with Australia's 7.7 m sq km.

The next step is probably to encompass further Asian markets instead. Of Hong Kong property, Chan is "cautiously optimistic", compared with the general market sentiment which is "overly optimistic". He said people were starting to recognise that the Australian market was rising, with vacancies falling, GDP growth speeding and the SA up. The biggest negatives on Australia, besides the present Hanson affair, were the capital gains tax and the foreign investment regulations.

He anticipates that democracy will come to China with economic prosperity. "But there is huge wealth disparity, and maintaining social stability is the major challenge for President Jiang Zemin," who arrives in Hong Kong for the first time today.



Clive Chan

Dear parents,

We have just celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Handover of Hong Kong back to China. I wonder if you have participated in any of the celebrations, but when I asked my students, none of whom born before 1997, sheer nonchalance seemed to prevail. Most of them have heard about the Joint Declaration between Britain and China in 1984, but few really understand the meaning of 'one country two systems', a term shrewdly coined by Deng Xiao Ping, in which I also naively believed along with many of the Hongkongers 20 years ago.

On the promises of the rule of law (not by law), separation of powers, an independent judiciary, freedom of speech and expression, a fully elected legislature and a directly elected Chief Executive, most Hong Kong people keenly anticipated the Handover. I remember it was the afternoon of 30 June 1997 when I walked from my office at Pacific Place to Hong Kong Park. A sense of euphoria dominated the entire park – adults dancing and drumming, kids taking pictures with the white dolphin statue, and people drinking and partying in the lawn. Most of us sincerely believed that Hong Kong would continue the way it had been for at least 50 more years.

After the Handover ceremony, I stayed up and watched the live broadcast of fireworks around all cities in China. A honeymoon period seemed to have set in – the popularity rating of Tung Chee Hwa, the Chief Executive elected by merely 800 people, was at an all-time high. The Chinese Government appeared to be more tolerant of criticisms, allowing dissidents

like Liu Xiaobo to publish his ideas and travel abroad, and Hong Kong people's sentiment towards China was generally positive. Though keenly aware of its one-party rule, we all hoped that China would evolve into a more democratic country with Hong Kong's influence.

Such a view has proven to be disastrously ingenuous after the publication of the 'White Paper on One Country, Two Systems' on 10 June 2014 and the decision made by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 31 August 2014, which directly triggered the Umbrella Movement in September 2014 that resulted in even more polarized views and splits among Hong Kong people. Instead of becoming more inclusive and tolerant of our differences, our society seemed to have been poisoned by hatred and an 'enemy mentality' spearheaded by our former Chief Executive C Y Leung who seemed determined to clamp down opposing voices.

As such, it is not difficult to understand why most Hong Kong people greeted the Handover Anniversary with indifference. For me, I can hardly see myself celebrating when a nationalistic scholar like Liu Xiaobo is still being jailed for his speech. Most who espouse prosperity and harmony see Liu a cancer cell of China. While I don't totally agree with his proposition, what he has suggested is a wake-up call for our country which is plagued by an enormous wealth gap underpinned by a corrupt bureaucracy. As repeatedly demonstrated in history, economic prosperity may sustain a totalitarian power for a while, but not indefinitely. The time bomb will continue clicking if opposing views are suppressed rather than properly channeled.

May God bless Hong Kong and China!

Yours sincerely,

Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

GWF6B Tues 6:30-7:30	Tang Hoi Wan, Rainbow
IEKKB Tues 9:30-10:30	Fong Cheuk Hang, George
IEKKB Sat 12:00-1:00	Lee Cheuk Hei, McQueen
IEK2B Sat 9:00-10:00	Kwok Tsz Lok, Jerry
IEK2A Thurs 4:30-5:30	Tai Chin Hong, Matthew
IEK2A Sat 10:00-11:00	Ngan Pak Him, Mike
IEK4B Sat 1:00-2:00	Cheung Damon Kuen Wai
IEK4A Sat 9:00-10:00	Lo Wai Lok, Louis
IEK6A Sat 12:00-1:00	Chak Kai Hin, Colin
PTWR Wed 5:30-6:30	Yeung Sum Ying, Chloe
PTWP1 Thur 9:30-10:30	Wong Yat Long, Matthew
PTWP2 Sat 11:00-12:00	Chan Yat Yin, Jayden
PTWP3 Sat 10:00-11:00	Wong Yau Sin, Yonny
PTW5 Wed 4:30-5:30	Leung Lok Tung, Abby
STLA Thur 3:30-4:00	Chan Lik In
WTE1 Tues 5:30-6:30	Li Hon Ming, William
WTE1 Wed 4:30-5:30	Kwok Wing Kiu, Stephanie
WTE4B Mon 4:30-5:30	Mak Sui Hei, Gabriel
WTE4B Fri 4:30-5:30	Lee Chun Yu, Talis
WTE4A Mon 5:30-6:30	Ling Yan Pak, Patrick
WTE4A Thur 5:30-6:30	Wong Pak Kiu, Jan
WTE6B Sat 5:00-6:00	Lam Yat Hei, Jacko
WTE6A Fri 6:30-7:30	Ling Keith

Summer Courses 2017

Our classes start on 17 July. Don't miss it. Enrol now!



Students' Page

July 2017



Summer is here and many of you will soon start your summer break. Many students experience the same pre-summer vacation longing, counting down the days between when school summer holiday begins and ends.

However, summer vacation is different everywhere. Whilst many countries have summer holidays around the months of June to September, others may have their break in other months. For example, students in Australia and Brazil enjoy their summer break from December to February; summer breaks in Thailand are in late February to mid-May; and some students in India would have just finished their summer holiday which started in April and ended in June.

If you are wondering why some countries pick such different months for their summer break, ask your teacher about the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. ~by Ms. Michelle

Congratulations to the Writers of the Month:

Gabriel Mak 4B Dickson Tsang 2B Taylor Wong 4A Melody Yeung 4A Ho Jing Fan 6B Melvin Lee 6B

Pizza Box by Gabriel Mak

Setting: MTR exit A, Andy's home

Characters: Ben and Andy

Talking on the phone at home. Mr. Ben doesn't know how to get to Andy's home, so he calls Andy for the directions.

Mr. Ben: Hello. This is Pizza Box. Can you tell me how to get to your place?
I'm lost.

Mr. Andy: Okay. Where are you now?

Mr. Ben: I'm in the MTR, exit A.

Mr. Andy: I see. Turn right. Walk two blocks. Then you will see a Circle K convenience store on your left.

Mr. Ben: Okay. Turn right and walk two blocks. ... Yes. I can see the Circle K convenience store on my left!

Mr. Andy: Walk through the store, and you will see a wet market on your right

Mr. Ben: Yes. I am standing in front of the wet market now.

Mr. Andy: Well done! Turn right. Walk straight ahead and you will see my building.

While Ben is walking to the building, he is very hungry, so he eats the pizza. Soon he gets to Andy's home.

Mr. Ben: Hello! This is Pizza Box.

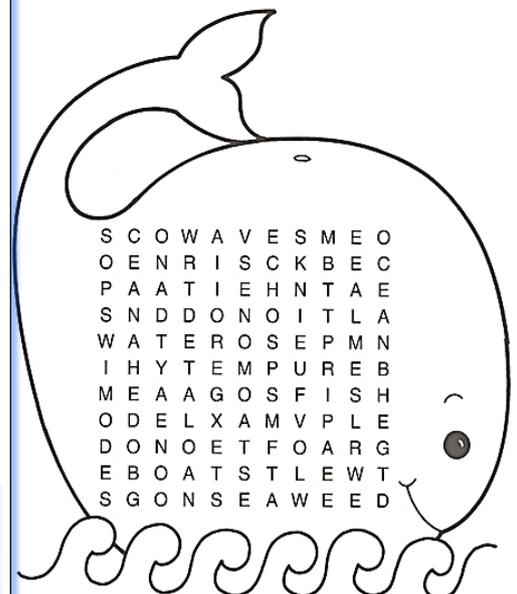
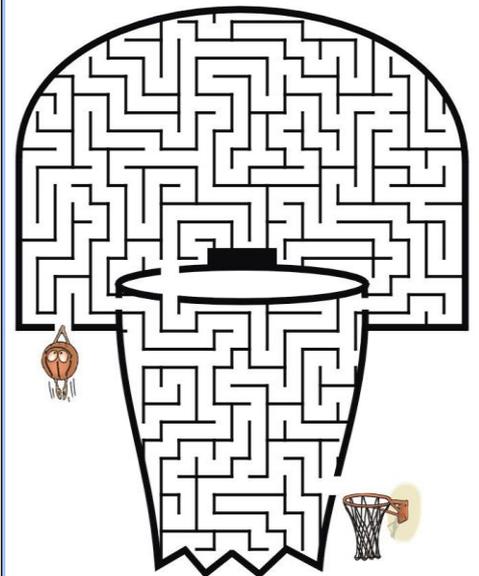
Mr. Andy: (*Happily*) Thank goodness! I am very hungry. (*He opens the box.*)
Hey?! Where is my pizza?

Mr. Ben: Pizza? What pizza?

Mr. Andy: Look! The box is empty.

Mr. Ben: You order pizza box, so here is a pizza box for you.

Mr. Andy: What!



SEA OCEAN WATER FISH WHALES SEAWEED WAVES BOATS SHIP SWIM