

From the Headmaster's Desk

In such a world (where we are flooded by enormous amount of information), the last thing a teacher needs to give her pupils is more information. They already have far too much of it. Instead, people need the ability to make sense of information, to tell the difference between what is important and what is unimportant, and above all to combine many bits of information into a broad picture of the world. ~ Yuval Noah Harari, Professor of history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dear parents,

While the COVID19 pandemic seems to be easing in Hong Kong, our economic and political environments get more upsetting than ever.

As I am no expert in current affairs, I do not intend to comment on the latest political developments, but as an educator, it has been most disturbing to see one question for the HKDSE history exam removed as a result of the political pressure from Kevin Yeung, the Secretary for Education, who has never worked as a teacher.

History was my favourite subject in my secondary school years, and I took both world history and Chinese history for my advanced level exams, and attaining an A1 in Chinese history (probably the top 100 candidates) has been an achievement I am still most proud of. However, do not ask me the details of those historical events which I have forgotten after almost 40 years. In fact, I wasn't great at memorizing original historical texts, which my classmates spent lots of hours cramming. Contrary to their mundane study methods, I spent time critically reflecting on those events before forming my own views, sometimes opposite of those of renowned historians.

Though we can benefit from historical hindsight, it is a big misnomer to think that the study of history is as objective as some science subjects in which you have only one right answer to a question. If we have contrasting views to the political events happening around us, it is only logical to think that we can have completely different views to a particular event or person in history.

Human beings have selective attention. We ignore information that doesn't appeal to us and focus on things that interest us. Though all of them profess to report impartially and truthfully, all news reporters pick and choose their stories and appeal to their particular audiences. In the same token, historians could have contrasting interpretations of the same historical event depending on the pieces of information they select and the particular perspectives they take.

Therefore, students of history are not expected to memorize but to make sense of the vast amount of

information they have got. Ideally, though almost impossible, they would analyze historical events from different angles and form their views without the intervention of their 'emotional bias' and preconceptions.

Understandably a serious threat to a totalitarian government which never allows citizens to hold opposite views and challenge its legitimacy, such training of critical and independent thinking is essential for a liberal society where people are allowed to freely express their divergent views.

Amid the increasingly distressing political circumstances, we vow to uphold this value of liberal education and help nurture and inspire our young autonomous thinkers at E-Smart, and I urge you to do the same at home.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chan Cherry | GWFF6B Fri 3:30-4:30 |
| Chan Yan Tung, Elizabeth | WTE4A Thur 6:30-7:30 |
| Cheng Ka Man, Noelle | WTE10B Fri 6:30-7:30 |
| Cheng Lok Tung, Ursula | WTE1 Tues 4:30-5:30 |
| Cheung Ho Kwan, Charles | IEK2B Sat 9:00-10:00 |
| Cheung Shing Lam, Zita | WTE2B Sat 11:00 |
| Chui Hoi Yan, Yan | IEK4A Fri 3:30-4:30 |
| Ha Hang Yu, Summer | PTWP3 Sat 4:00-5:00 |
| Hsu Si Lok, Hercules | IEK8B Sat 9:00-10:00 |
| Kim Min Jae | WTE2A Sat 11:00-12:00 |
| Kwong Wang Yip, Anson | IEK6A Sat 12:00-1:00 |
| Lai Yi Yin, Carrie | WTE8B Sat 12:00-1:00 |
| Lam Hong Ching, Zoey | WTE4B Wed 4:30-5:30 |
| Law Hanson | WTE6A Sat 10:00-11:00 |
| Law Hee Ting, Hidy | WTE4A Sat 11:00-12:00 |
| Leung Wing Tung, Nicole | IEK6B Sat 10:00-11:00 |
| Liu Josh Wai-Chun | WTE4A Sat 3:00-4:00 |
| Lui Hong Yu, Alexandra | IEKP Tues 4:30-5:30 |
| Man Chit, Sunny | PTW2 Sat 12:00-1:00 |
| Ng Cheuk Lam, Jolie | WTE2A Tues 5:30-6:30 |
| Pang Cheuk Ling, Lilian | WTE6A Fri 2:30-3:30 |
| Sze King Ching, Anthony | IEK4A Sat 9:00-10:00 |
| Tang Kwan Ho Tim | GWFF4B Sat 10:00 |
| Tsoi Ka Ying, Angel | IEK8B Tues 6:30-7:30 |
| Tsui Hei Tung, Aiden | PTWE2 Thur 4:30-5:30 |
| Tsui Lok Ki, John | WTE8A Sat 11:00-12:00 |
| Yeung Angel | GWFF2A Sat 3:00-4:00 |
| Yip Long Chi, Aidan | WTE2B Sat 2:00-3:00 |

Summer Classes

Our summer classes start on 13 July. To help kids catch up at school after the extended school suspension, we have a new class 'Summer English Essence' specially catered for the local curriculum. Enroll before 13 June to enjoy the early bird discount.

STUDENTS' PAGE

JUNE 2020

Summer has arrived!! Whatever your favourite season is, summer is a season which has many benefits for our health as well as give us the sunny skies and warm temperatures. Did you know that the sunlight will give us more vitamin D, which are important for healthy bones, teeth and muscles? Since our school summer holidays have begun, here are some fun and unusual dates for you to enjoy your holiday break.

- ❖ 5 June – World Environment Day
- ❖ 6 June – Yo-yo Day
- ❖ 7 June – Chocolate Ice Cream Day
- ❖ 8 June – Best Friends day

~ Ms. Josephine ☺

Summer Fun Sudoku

Draw the items in the missing grids to complete the Sudoku.

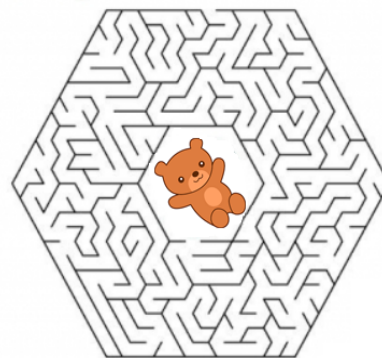


Sudoku reminder: Each of the four columns, four rows and four subgrids should only have one copy of each picture.

Seaside Maze



Help the little girl find her way through the maze to her teddy bear.



Best Writer of May



Bubble Gum

By Haden Lam (WTE4A)

Hi, I am Haden. I am a doctor. Today, I will talk about eating bubble gum.

Most parents don't like their kids eating bubble gum, but why? First of all, the bubble gum may contain poison. Second, the bubble gum is dirty. And when you spit it on the ground, the virus in your saliva will spread out to the whole street or the whole city, so when you step on the virus the virus will stick on your shoes, and when you get back to your house, your shoe's virus will get out and spread in your house, and your house will be full of viruses.

And in some countries, such as Singapore, no chewing gum, let alone bubble gum, is allowed to be sold. And I agree with these rules because they are dirty and may contain poison. But at present, we have more technology to put nutrients into the bubble gum, so it is not very bad.

But of course, I still don't agree to eating bubble gum.

Congratulations to the other writers of the month!!

- Jolie Ng (WTE2A) – A farmer's problems
- Esther Wong (WTE4B) – A day at the beach
- Elise Kwan (WTE4A) – Anne Frank's day

Honorable Mention

Inventing a robot

By Bernice Li (WTE4A)

My invention is a robot. It has square eyes, a big mouth and a small tiny nose. On its head, it has a thing that if it gets lost, it can find its owner too. There is an on-off sign on its body. There are some lines on its body for decoration. Its feet are wheels and under its wheels, there is a towel. When it walks, it can help clean the floor.

Its function is to help you clean your home and teach you how to do homework. It knows many languages. If you are French or Korean, it can also communicate with you!

It can do anything!

my
robot

