

Thrive at E-Smart

February 2026

From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear Parents,

As Chinese New Year approaches, I find myself reflecting on what this festival meant to me as a child. Growing up, I eagerly awaited the new clothes, the treats, the sumptuous meals, and of course, the red packets from parents and married elders. But beyond the excitement, what shaped my understanding of this season were the people and moments that revealed its deeper meaning: reunion and reconciliation.

My childhood home was modest, yet it became a gathering place for my father's young relatives who had immigrated from the Mainland to Hong Kong for work, far from their own families. On the first day of Chinese New Year, my mother would cook five or six separate meals to welcome each of them. She might whine a little about the hard work, but she always showed these young men love and care, ensuring they felt the warmth of family during the festive season.

There were also traditions I dreaded. Each year, we embarked on a long journey—over two hours by bus and ferry—to visit my mother's eldest sister. I suffered (and still suffer) from motion sickness, often arriving home with a splitting headache and nausea. Yet my mother never wavered in making this trip, even though her eldest sister never felt particularly close to us. In contrast, visits to another aunt, now 94, who ran a seafood business, were always a delight. She was generous with her laughter and her red packets, and her home radiated joy.

Yet, the most profound lesson came from my mother's relationship with her younger brother. After a misunderstanding, he stopped speaking to our family. According to tradition, he should have visited his elder sister during Chinese New Year. Yet my mother took the initiative, humbly going to his door with gifts. He turned her away, refusing even to let her in. Though I believed she was not at fault, she never gave up. She chose love over pride, and years later, he finally reopened the door—not just to her, but to reconciliation.

Fifty years later, our world has changed. Celebrations may be more modest, but the heart of Chinese New Year remains the same: it is a time to reunite with those we cherish, and to mend what may be broken. In a fast-paced, often disconnected world, these values matter more than ever.

At E-Smart, we hope to pass on this spirit to our students. We encourage them to treasure time with family and friends, and to find the courage to reconcile with those they may not see eye to eye with. After all, festivals are not just about customs; they are about connection, kindness, and the choices we make to hold our communities close.

May this Chinese New Year bring your family warmth, understanding, and many joyful reunions!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Chan Pak Hei, Karl	WTE2A Fri 4:30-5:30
Chan Tsz Kiu, Andrea	WTE2B Sat 1:00-2:00
Chen Kam Hon, Tony	WTE4B Sat 1:00-2:00
Cheng Chun Hei, Marcus	IEK10B Sat 11:00-12:00
Cheng Ka Ki, Kayla	WTE8B Sat 2:00-3:00
Cheung Yui Ching, Clement	IEK8A Sat 12:00-1:00
Chow Lok Ki, Makis	IEK6B Sat 12:00-1:00
Fan Pak Yuen, Daniel	IEK4B Sat 9:00-10:00
Ip Yan Tung, Ella	IEK2A Wed 5:30-6:30
Kwong Ching Yau, Hillary	WTE6A Sat 3:00-4:00
Leung Sun Yin, Jessica	WTE6B Sat 3:00-4:00
Li Sheung Wing, Bernice	WTE10A Thu 6:30-7:30
Lin Yat Hong, Hayden	WTE4A Sat 10:00-11:00
Lin Yat On, Anka	WTE2A Sat 10:00-11:00
Ling Yan Ho	WTE6B Fri 4:30-5:30
Lui Hong Lam, Caitlyn	WTE6A Sat 10:00-11:00
Luk Wai Yin, Phoebe	WTE2B Fri 5:30-6:30
Poon Ka Ki, Andrew	GWFF9A Wed 6:30-7:30
Tang Sze Wai, Crystal	IEK4A Sat 1:00-2:00
Wong Tsz Him, Perseus	GWFF4A Thu 5:30-6:30
Yam Chi Him, Randy	GWFF6B Sat 1:00-2:00
Yip Wing Sum, Sophia	GWFF4B Fri 5:30-6:30
Yu Man Him, Nico	WTE4A Thu 4:30-5:30

Student Progress Report and Parent Survey

We are sending out student progress report and parent survey this month. Please contact the reception staff if you would like to speak with the teacher or the headmaster.



Welcome to February 2026 – a very special month with two famous events: the Chinese New Year of the galloping Horse and Valentine’s Day, with love in the air. ❤️

This Horse year is a lucky year. The Horse is famous for being dynamic and successful, with good fortune. Isn't it wonderful to have family and friends to celebrate the New Year? The beautiful tradition of family gatherings includes dining together and receiving lucky money. It's also a time for new activities to move forward and achieve our goals and desires. How will you enjoy your holiday week? Staying in Hong Kong or going away with your family to enjoy some travel? When we return to class, please share your fun times with all of us. 🐎

~Ms Lavina

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WRITERS OF FEBRUARY:

Best Writers: Alexandra Lui (4B) – I Am A Giraffe; Lau Tsz Fung (6B) – The Best Day Ever

Others writers: Kayla Cheng (8B) My Plan of Helping Underprivileged Children Around the World; Tony Chen (4B) A Robbery; Perseus Wong (4A) A Special Pill; Tony Ngan (6B) The Indestructible Phone

I Am A Giraffe – By Alexandra Lui (WTE4B)

Nice to meet you. I am a giraffe in the forests of Africa. I'm shy but I'm gentle. I eat lots of plants every day. My long neck helps me reach the leaves on the tall trees.

During the day, I usually eat and walk to find water. Sometimes I play with the other giraffes with my long neck. When other animals try to hurt me, I will kick them with my thin but strong legs. At night I take short naps in the grass.

My life as a giraffe is fine. There aren't a lot of things to do, but it is peaceful and nice.



The Best Day Ever – By Lau Tsz Fung (WTE6B)

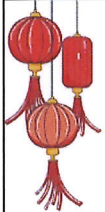
When I was a little boy, I dreamed of flying into the sky, and going out to space. I thought about it for a long time, but our family was poor and had no money for such a thing.

One day, Dad, Mom and I went to my grandfather's house for a visit. We hadn't seen him for a long time and we were going to celebrate my birthday there. We stayed there for a few days.

On my birthday, my family and my grandfather drove me to a place that I didn't know. They said they had a present for me in the mysterious place. When we got there, I saw a big balloon.

Then, they all shouted, "Happy Birthday!" and explained what that was. The balloon had been made by my grandfather, Dad and Mom. They knew I always wanted to go to see the sky, but they were poor, so they had prepared this balloon. It had taken them a lot of time. We got on the balloon, and I saw a wonderful view and white clouds; it was fantastic.

That was the best day ever; and I had received the best gift.



CHINESE NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!



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|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| DRAGON | RABBIT | PARADE | OX |
| JADE | RED | HORSE | DOG |
| ENVELOPE | SNAKE | LUCK | TIGER |
| FIREWORKS | ANCESTORS | SPRING | SHEEP |
| MONEY | LUCKY | BOAR | LUNAR |
| FESTIVAL | ROOSTER | LANTERN | RAT |
| MONKEY | DUMPLING | | |

Help her to find her valentine's gift

