

# The Wah Yan Times

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## Mr. Warren Chung Pledges to Bring a New Beginning

By Senior Editor-in-Chief,  
Joshua Tam 4J

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, The Wah Yan Times interviewed Mr. Warren Chung, our next Principal, who will come into office this September. He came punctually in a black suit and walked confidently into the Language Room. Mr. Chung was longing to know more about the school that has changed so much since he left here as a student.

“I am open-minded. I have to listen to the opinions of the students, as well as those of the teachers, and of the School Management Committee. I’d listen to the opinions about the advantages and the disadvantages of any new arrangements,” Mr. Chung said.



Mr. Chung      Photo: Waye Fok 1W

### His Challenges

Mr. Chung, who is also an alumnus of our school, graduated in 1979. He was selected by the School Management Committee and various stakeholders. He will face many challenges like the worn-out campus facilities, school finances, higher academic expectations from parents and unity of all parties.

“I think it is an honour for me to be given the opportunity to serve my alma mater,” he said. “I never dreamt of being the principal of Wah Yan.”

Mr. Chung has been serving as the Principal of St Bonaventure College & High School, which he has helped to upgrade from Band 2-3 to Band 1-2, in the past five years. However, many

WYK students fear that he would bring the strict rules from there to Wah Yan.

“I would not do such a thing. It is always a mistake to impose the system of one school on another one, because different schools have different cultures, traditions and situations,” he said. “It (St. Bonaventure) was founded by a Father of the Order of Capuchin Friars Minor. He preferred military training for his students, so it has this kind of culture and tradition, which is totally different (from Wah Yan).”

### His Mission

Mr. Chung has set three missions he hopes to achieve. First, he wants to unite teachers, students, parents, past students and other stakeholders to support our school. Second, he hopes

to raise the sense of belonging and the sense of achievement of the students so as to boost the morale. Third and most importantly, he hopes to help all Wah Yan students to develop their potential so that they can live out the spirit of “Men for and with Others” and live life with dignity, honour and confidence.

When asked of his view of the Direct Subsidy Scheme, he told us, “The Society of Jesus regards running a school as running a charitable organisation. Our mission is to provide quality education for young people, no matter if they come from rich families or not. If we join the Direct Subsidy Scheme, probably we will have to collect tuition fees and other miscellaneous fees. This will deprive children from poor families of the chance to receive quality education at Wah Yan.”

Mr. Chung explained his views on the current educational system. “The New Senior Secondary Academic Structure is like a marathon. You have to keep your spirits high throughout the three years in order to achieve good academic results. We have to cultivate a better learning atmosphere and provide better conditions; otherwise, you can’t keep running for three years non-

stop.”

“Motivation and encouragement are very important. We would celebrate the achievements of the students immediately and provide scholarships for them as rewards. Encouragement from teachers and from the principal is vital in improving academic results. More importantly, I hope we can help our students to have aspirations so they will work hard for their own dreams.”

### Extra-curricular Activities

Talking about the development of the extra-curricular activities in WYK, Mr. Chung said, “I will do my utmost to uphold the support for music and sports development in Wah Yan. The support for music will definitely continue and the support for sports will be reinforced.”

“Through sports, we can learn fair play, discipline and perseverance. Sports play a crucial role in developing the character of a student. I think employing good coaches who coach passionately and push students to their limits is very important. Take the Tennis Team as an example, the coach, Mr. Ernest Lau, has led the team to success in the last few years,” he added.

Mr. Chung believes that students should be all-rounded in their character and in their interests. He told the WYT that he would create more space for extra-curricular activities among students of WYK. He hopes that there will be various activities and student exchange programmes to enrich our experiences and develop our potential.

He also hopes to have more joint-school activities with WYHK, and students of both schools can definitely benefit from these activities and learn from one another. ■



Interview in the language room  
Photo: Waye Fok 1W

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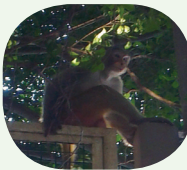
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# New Breakthroughs in Junior English Debating Tournament

By Junior Reporter, Henry Liu 3C

WYK Junior English Debating Team won the first runner-up and lost only to Heep Yunn School (HYS) in the 2nd WYK Junior Inter-School Debating Tournament, held at Wah Yan College, Kowloon on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

The tournament started at 9am. There were three rounds of debate among 20 local schools this year.

Our school beat Wah Yan College, Hong Kong (WYHK) in the semi-final and met another finalist HYS, which had defeated Holy Trinity College (HTC). The third and fourth places went to WYHK and HTC respectively.

As a teacher advisor of the School English Debating Team and one of the organisers of the tournament, Ms. Erica Lowe felt quite satisfied. She thought that the debaters from WYK and HYS did quite well in the final: they were able to give arguments and support them with evidence and they were also able to do rebuttals.

Ms. Lowe said, "This year, we have some debaters who are really enthusiastic. They come to training a lot. The attendance was quite good. And they actually have pretty good English speaking skills as well. However, I think they need to work



The final Photo: Joseph Wu 2Y

on better research skills and they need to read a lot more online about different topics and issues."

"I certainly hope to hold the tournament again. And I certainly hope to keep at least the standard that we had this year. The teachers are really supportive of the student's debating activities. I hope we are able to continue this and I hope more schools will come and more Wah Yan students will come and watch as well because it is a great learning opportunity," she added.

The motion of WYK vs. WYHK was: "This House Would ban the use of animals in sports and entertainment". Every speaker on each side had three minutes to speak, and then it went to the

free debate session which was one of the main parts of the match. There were lots of "verbal battles" between the two teams.

"Actually, it was a very close debate-WYHK lost by only three marks. It was a fantastic match with well-planned ideas. The free debate was quite exciting for me because they questioned and answered each other, which made the judge feel surprised that junior form students can deliver such good performances," said Jenkin Leung (1W), the Chairperson of the match.

The English Debating Team Junior Captain, Jason Wong (2W) competed in many matches and debated in the final. He was also awarded "Third Place Speaker Award" for his participation and good performance.

Wong said, "I never thought I could get this award. I believe many others deserve this award better than I do. I started to debate when I was in F1. Mrs. James required my class to join the Friday lunchtime debate and I went there almost every week along with two friends last year. Later in January, three of us were asked to join the English Debating Team." ■

## Pursue Dreams through Music: Annual Concert 2013

By Junior Reporters, Terence Chan 2C & Jenkin Leung 1W

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the School Music Association (MA) held the Annual Concert "Pursuit" at the Academic Community Hall of Hong Kong Baptist University. WYK students, their parents, alumni and some teachers watched the show.

This year, the concert was rich in content with many types of performances. There were 14 programmes in total. Two bands from the Pop Music Society opened the show with their performances of "I Can Wait Forever" and "Speedy Red Sports Car".

The "Cello Concerto in B Minor, OP.104. B.191" and "Trombone Concerto Mov.1" were performed by Lau Kam Him and Li Nap Ki of Form 4 respectively after the opening. The next programme was the "Manly Men" by Kurt Knecht. This song introduced different sections of the boy's choir of tenor I, tenor II, baritone and bass II.

The concert continued with performances by the String Quartet, the School Chinese Orchestra, the Wind Band and Ms. Erica Lowe. It ended with our school hymn and a farewell surprise for our principal, Dr. Tan – "All Things Bright and Beautiful" by John Rutter. The hymn was re-arranged to the symphonic version written by one WYK alumnus,

a bit different from the version that was sung during assemblies.

Most of the audience liked "Libera Me" from Verdi's "Requiem". It was performed by the joint choir of WYK and Belilios Public School, our String Orchestra and the soloist, English Teacher Ms. Erica Lowe, who began singing when she was six years old.

Ms. Lowe said, "The moment that I knew I would be singing solo, which was about late March, I started practising. I've listened to different versions of this piece at least 100 times to learn from various soloists, including Renee Fleming and Angela Gheorghiu."

Music Teacher, Mr. Lesley Chan said, "Without the MA executives, the concert would not have been so successful and the stage management team was very efficient."

Anthony Wong of 2Y said, "The concert was a high-quality performance, however it ended a bit late. It would be inconvenient for students. And the arrangement of the concert could be better."

Ms. Lowe said, "The students worked very hard. They attended lots of practices for this concert. I think it was a very spirited, energetic performance. And I think it was quite well done. My friends who have attended the concert also said that they were very impressed by the singers and

the orchestra members."

The annual concert is the one of the traditions in Wah Yan College, Kowloon, which started around 20 years ago. The first MA Chairman Antonio Chuh (1981) initiated the concert and has made tremendous effort to contribute to the music education of the school over years.

Originally, the annual concert was held in the school hall. But 13 years ago, the MA Chairmen Austin Yip, who is now a reputed composer in HK, moved the annual concert to government venues. Since then, the annual concert has been held outside the school campus. ■



Ms. Lowe singing "Libera Me"  
Photo: Jeremy Lam 6S



# The Inter-School Athletics Championships 2013

By Senior Editor-in-Chief, Joshua Tam 4J

It was a hard-fought battle. On the third day of the Championship, our athletics team celebrated our 29<sup>th</sup> year in Division 1, a success against the tides of relegation. This year's competition marked a unique achievement for both colleges, competing against each other in the same division for the first time in 32 years. In the end, we finished 16<sup>th</sup>, and WYHK ended its campaign in 8<sup>th</sup> place.



WYK athletes competed in the championships  
Photo: Jason Leung 2W

As much as we were grateful that we could remain in the division for at least one more year, questions have been raised: "What were the reasons for the team's successive poor rankings in recent years?" "What has gone wrong?"

"Members do not have a sense of belonging to the team and detest hard-

ship," complained Marvin Chan from F4, who had always attended trainings himself.

"The team's strength is definitely sliding," said Frank Wong of 2W, another member of the team. "Students from lower forms train much less than the older generations."

"My school permitted us to train during lessons before the competitions and we had a tight training schedule, with sessions nearly every day," said Jonathan Sin, an athlete from La Salle College, a fellow government-subsidised school.

"There is a good winning mentality among team members, we all want to vanquish and defeat our rivals," Jonathan Sin added. La Salle came second in the Championships this year after merely missing the title out to Diocesan Boys' School, a Direct Subsidy Scheme school.

"It would certainly help if more students joined the Athletics Team," said Mr Tang, a teacher advisor of our Athletics Team.

In the late 1990s, when WYK had its glory days in athletics, we were amongst the high achievers. We once finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1999. However, since 2000, our rankings have fallen. ■

## Football Pitch to Be Renovated

By Junior Editor-in-Chief,  
Matthew Ho 3K

The current grass football pitch will be renovated to an artificial turf pitch, Principal Dr. Tan said in the morning assembly on April 16, 2013.

According to his announcement, the construction is estimated to cost about HK\$12.5 million in total and to be completed in 2014.

The installation of the newest turf—"4G Non-filled System for Soccer & Multi-Sport All Weather Use" is to be finalised.

The rough estimate of HK\$12.5 million required to build the artificial pitch is still being raised and Dr. Tan expects to have enough funds. When approval from the Jesuit headquarters from Rome arrived, a tender can be issued and companies can submit their proposals and bid for the project.

Dr. Tan said, "I hope the football pitch can be finished within 12 months and the work on the tender practice is finished before the end of this summer."

When asked if the wildlife of the football pitch will be affected, he said, "The wildlife will be affected, but a large patch at the junction of Waterloo Road and Wylie

Road may be preserved, as it does not belong to the football pitch."

Dr. Tan also hoped the new football pitch will encourage more students to play football. "I hope so. The artificial pitch will be safer as the ground in the current pitch is uneven and students may have injuries. The artificial pitch will be safer as it will be less likely to cause injuries."

Matthew Lau of 3K supports the plan, but he also has a concern. He said, "I would like a new pitch, but I think its maintenance can be a problem."

The school authorities acquired the current premises on Waterloo Road around 1949. The grass football pitch, formerly a valley, has been used since the campus was opened in 1952. ■



The present grass pitch  
Photo: WYK Photobank

## Interview with Mrs. Chau—'If you want to do something, always do your best.'

By Junior Reporters, Jason  
Leung & Ken Sun 2W



Mrs. Chau with WYT reporters

Why did Mrs. Mabel Chau come out of retirement from WYHK to teach at WYK in 2009? She came because her son, brothers and nephews had all studied in Wah Yan and she appreciated the

school's team spirit. She is currently teaching English Language to 1C, 1S and 2W.

WYK boys have not disappointed her, and she enjoys teaching them, especially this year. She said, "I have a very good group of students who inspire me. The boys are interesting and interested. They do more than required and are eager to learn."

However, this is her last year teaching before she retires again. She shared some interesting facts with us about her teaching career. "Some students are more than meets

the eye. They may be mischievous at times, but deep down they are caring. One of them returned my lost mobile phone and another even picked the bones off a fish for me during lunch. All these have touched me a lot. They made me understand the parable of the prodigal son from the Bible: Teaching is meaningful and rewarding."

Jason Wong of 2W said, "Mrs. Chau did not only teach English to us, but also gave us extra knowledge, like newspaper reading and French."

She received a booklet of famous quotations about teaching from her special

student. One saying inspires her the most: "The aim of education is not the knowledge of facts, but the values."

Apart from her passion for teaching, Mrs. Chau also enjoys swimming and has recently broken the Chinese National Record for her age group in the 50m butterfly.

When asked about her success, she thanked her daughter, whose motto is: "If you want to do something, always do your best."

Besides swimming, she enjoys "Ikebana" (Japanese flower arrangement) and has a teacher's certificate for it. She even makes her own ceramics for her floral arrange-

ments.

She practices yoga in her spare time. "Yoga helps you release stress. It makes the body more pliable and can enhance my swimming." She also has great passion for cooking, and is eager to try new recipes of unique dishes.

When asked if she had any secrets, Mrs. Chau smiled mysteriously and said, "The hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' reminds me of Wah Yan."

"Why?" we asked curiously. "That's for you to find out," finished Mrs. Chau. ■



# ‘Cloud Atlas’: Two in One Review—Everything is Connected

By Senior Editor-in-Chief, Ronald Chiu 4J

David Mitchell’s “Cloud Atlas” is, first off, a strange book. Instead of one storyline, in “Cloud Atlas”, readers are presented with six fully separate storylines told from six different points of view. Resurrection is the missing link between the six seemingly unrelated stories. Each character from their respective time period is a reincarnation. In short, the same person, only with different forms and bodies. It’s not mere idle speculation; across the pages there are numerous clues and recurring themes. There’s the comet-shaped birthmark that marks most of the characters, showing that are the same person, over and over again. Needless to say, the six-part storytelling is refreshing, and quite unlike anything seen before. One thing it allows is an enormous variety of genres, from Gothic till Cyberpunk, to be crammed into the book, catering to readers and viewers of different tastes. It’s also worth praise how the author has managed to link the storylines elegantly and simply, by having each parts’ protagonist read the others’ stories. To clear things up a bit, here is a flow chart to illustrate the relationship between the different perspectives: Adam Ewing’s Pacific Journal (read by)> Robert Frobisher’s Letters (read by)> Luisa Rey’s Novel (read by)> Timothy Cavendish’s Film (read by)> Somni-451’s Account (Orison) (read by)> Zachry the Goat herder

While the stories by themselves are fairly simple, when linked together, the picture they paint can be dazzling and unfortunately, rather distracting. For the novel, a major stumbling block would be how reader may choose only to read the so-called attractive storylines and skip the mediocre ones, which makes the book wholly less satisfying. To quote the author of Cloud Atlas himself, “A half-read book is a half-finished love affair.”

Reincarnation is an intriguing idea, though dated. But it’s this very same idea which is taken over the top in the cinematic version. How? All the major characters in the film are played by a recurring cast of actors including Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent, Hugo Weaving and Doona Bae.

Each of them takes the mantle of a staggering range of characters. Take Tom Hanks as an example. He alone portrays six characters, from the malicious and calculating Dr Goose to an unstable gangster, from a gifted astrophysicist to a dim-witted goat herder. It’s appealing at first glance, the shock-value of the amazing versatility of actors, before you realise: the gimmick has not the slightest gram’s significance to the storyline. ■

### The comparison between the book and the film:

Story	Book	Film
Adam Ewing’s Pacific Journal	Brief Simple plot and complex setting	Simple plot shortened still simplified setting
Letters from Zedelghem (Robert Frobisher’s)	Perverse, dull introspective and too much inner dialogues	Still lusty but boring Violent
The Luisa Rey Mystery	Action-packed, clichéd plot and characters	True to book, villains’ roles reduced and darkly humorous
The Dreadful Ordeal of Timothy Cavendish	Simple plot, light, conversational tone and much sarcasm	Light-hearted plot and style retained
An Orison of Somni-451	Complicated plot, final twist, serious tone and futuristic setting	Dumbed down and plot twists replaced by computer-generated eye candy
Sloosha’s Crossin’ an’ Everythin’ After (Zachry the goat herder)	Fascinating setting, confusing languageand straightforward plot	Dialogue unintelligible, plot enhanced by twists and impressive CGI

## Book review: Having Faith in Love — ‘The Fault in Our Stars’

By anonymous

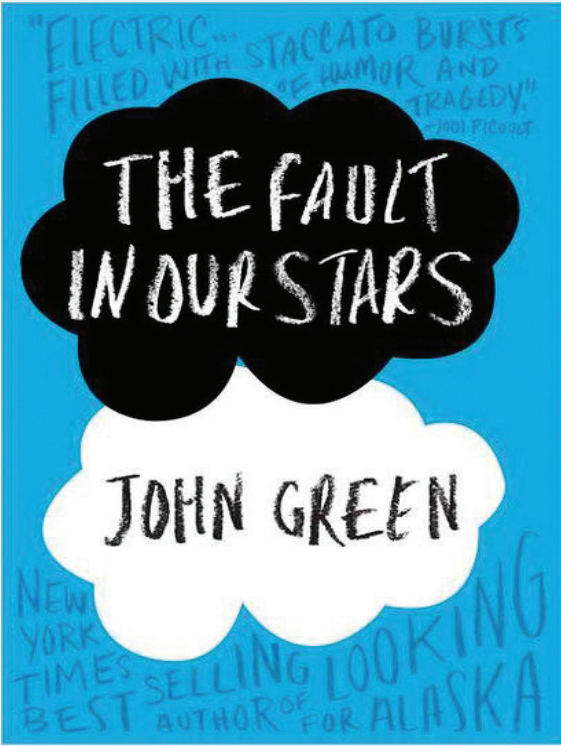


Photo: Wikipedia

John Green’s novel, “The Fault in Our Stars”

successfully made me hysterical for the entire evening, after I had finished reading it.

The book is about romance, love, destiny, faith, losing faith, facing the malicious truth in life. Hazel Grace and Augustus Waters, are both diagnosed with cancer. They met by chance, and fell in love. One lost faith while the other one was encouraged. The two of them tried to make the most of their last years. It’s a journey to new possibilities while death approaches.

I would like to thank John Green for creating the perfect climax. It is when Hazel Grace was giving Augustus a eulogy, which represents last word from the living to the dead. The scene was set in a sacred church and Hazel Grace was giving Augustus her eulogy. I can feel the character’s sincerity, honesty and feeling of desperation, knowing that they can never cheat death.

Here is the devastating blow:

“I can’t talk about our love story, so I will talk about math. I am not a mathematician, but I know this: There are infinite numbers between 0 and 1. There are 0.1, 0.12 and 0.112 and an infinite collection of others. Of course, there is a bigger infi-

nite set of numbers between 0 and 2, or between 0 and a million. Some infinity is bigger than other infinities. There are days, many of them, when I resent the size of my unbounded set. I want more numbers than I’m likely to get, and God, I want more numbers for Augustus Waters than he got. But Augustus, my love, I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our little infinity. I wouldn’t trade it for the world. You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I’m grateful.”

I was so conflicted by the end of reading this chapter, I cried. The way Green illustrated cancer is depressing, but at the same time, you don’t feel sorry for the characters because you know the ending for these unfortunate kids. It is true love—two teenagers are helping and accepting each other through the most humiliating physical and emotional ordeals, and it is far more romantic than any sunset on any beach on the world.

If you haven’t read the book yet, you might certainly think I am too emotional and sentimental. But I am just here to share what I feel and what’s on my mind. ■



# Wild Wah Yan-a Jungle Campus

By Senior Editor-in-Chief, Ronald Chiu 4J

Wah Yan is surrounded by lush greenery, where lies a stunning biodiversity of 37 species of birds<sup>1</sup>, numerous insects, one monkey, a few cats and no less than 60 species of plants in 1998<sup>2</sup> and more are found now.

“Wah Yan is an ideal of sustainable living. Green is its colour,” said Fr Naylor, on his website. Describing the dazzling **myriad** of shrubs and trees in the campus, Father Naylor said, “The vegetation is what makes Wah Yan so beautiful. Our school and King’s Park are an oasis of natural wildlife in a highly urbanised environment.”

### What can be seen?

Large animals draw the most attention, but they are rare in King’s Park and nearly non-existent in our campus. “Our school doesn’t have many big animals, because there are too many passers-by: the elderly doing their morning exercise and students staying after school. When we do see them, they are mostly foraging for food scraps rather than staying here,” observed Mr. Wai, a biology teacher in our school.



An orange cat Photo: Jo Peng

One deer was sighted near the tennis courts three to four years ago, a species is nearly extinct in Hong Kong’s city area, due to their secretive nature and knack for **concealment**. Monkeys also look for food on the campus, with several sightings around the swimming pool already recorded

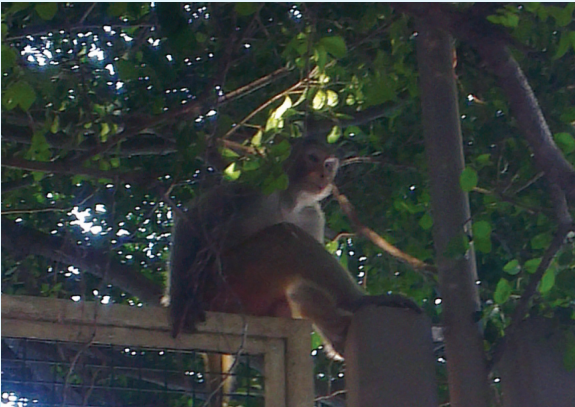


Photo: Benson Leung 2C

in the last few months. A Garfield-like orange cat has been spotted many times by boys near the west gate. It entered the gate, wandered in the yard and slipped away when people came closer.

“There was only one monkey,” said Lau Shun of 4J, who took a photo of the **macaque** on his way to school. “It was small, smart and agile, but it didn’t seem quite comfortable around people. It bared its teeth at me when I got too close.”

According to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), there are 52 species of snakes in Hong Kong, a few of which you can spot on the campus. According to the Hong Kong Economic Times, one 30-centimeter-long red milksnake was found by our security in March, and caught by a snake expert after he had received the report from the police.

### Insectophobics beware!

Among the tinier denizens of our school, social insects such as bigheaded ants, Formosan **termites**, fireflies, earthworms and Asian honeybees have unimaginably large societies. For honeybees, each colony comprises of no less than a whopping 3000 individuals, for ants tens of thousands, and for termites, 2 million or more.

“While to many people they are but nuisances, insects are very important to the natural habitat as the **scavengers** cleaning up the environment,” said Father Naylor as he casually named a few.

Hong Kong is home to more than 2,000 moth, 110 dragonfly and 283 butterfly species, according to AFCD. Although not rare in Wah Yan, we cannot see them year-round.

“When I work in my garden near the west gate, I often encounter bees and butterflies. Some of them are beneficial, and others pests, not to mention I’ve already found more than 10 species of butterflies,” said Billy Tam, the Student Advisor of the Horticulture Club. “Butterflies are most easily observed among seasonal wildlife. For some species, their numbers change drastically each year due to temperature and season. Some also have **monsoon** and dry season colours,” he added.

### Protection and precaution

Though the **spectrum** of wildlife in our school is all very fascinating, it is not advisable to touch them, especially the colourful ones. That is because the vibrant colours of these animals actually serve as warnings for **predators** to back off.

It is also noteworthy that even harmless **critters** may cause **anaphylactic** reactions to some, while pests in the likes of rats or pigeons may even be carriers of viruses. Snakes like the venomous bamboo pit viper can be yet another threat. When students or citizens feel disturbed or threatened by wildlife, the AFCD often steps in to remove such animals.

When asked if the changes on the campus have affected the ecosystem, Fr Naylor admitted that the construction of Ricci Building has covered grass areas in concrete, putting wildlife under pressure. “These changes are not helping the wildlife,” he said.

“Wildlife has to adapt,” said Mr. Shing, a biology teacher in our school and the co-author of the plant guide book “Wah Yan Path”. “In order to survive, they integrate into our densely-populated urban environment in Wah Yan.”

“Our environment makes us happy. It gives us a soothing feeling,” he said. “Students may use the environment wisely, for other kinds of learning, conservation, or even spiritual development. If you have time, pull a chair under a tree to listen to the birds chirping.” ■

(Benson Leung & Victor Chen 2C also contributed to the story)

- 1. From “Birds in Wah Yan (Kowloon)”
- 2. From “Wah Yan Path”

### Vocabulary:

- myriad**: [n] a very large number of something
- concealment**: [n] the act of hiding something
- insectophobic**: [n] people who have a common fear of or aversion to insects and similar arthropods, and even other terres bugs
- macaque**: [n] the most widespread species of monkey, ranging from Japan to Afghanistan
- termite**: [n] a small, white tropical insect that eats wood
- scavenger**: [n] a bird or animal that feeds on dead animals that it has not

- killed itself
- monsoon**: [n] the season of heavy rain during the summer in hot Asian countries
- spectrum**: [n] the set of colours into which a beam of light can be separated, or a range of waves, such as light waves or radio waves
- predator**: [n] an animal that hunts, kills, and eats other animals
- critter**: [n] a creature
- anaphylactic**: [adj] a severe allergic reaction

(Source: dictionary.cambridge.org)



# Macabre Soul

By Senior Editor-in-Chief, Ronald Chiu 4J

“Please, father,” a boy knelt, pleading.  
Twenty years had passed, and the boy was gone, but still his voice lingered, “Please, father.”  
Father Benedicto stopped in his tracks. He relaxed his grip on the door knob, letting the door glide back into its frame soundlessly.  
Was it the wind?  
“Please, father,” the voice became a little louder.  
Raising his candle in one hand, Father Benedicto strode through the **catacomb** and approached the source of the voice. They stood in rows, dozens of hundreds of **corpses**, planted by the rich and the **reverent**. Faithless men might have cringed at the sight, but for Father Benedicto they brought solace, the assurance that the dead would always remain so and that the past may never come back to haunt.

Father Benedicto saw the child, a small crouched figure tightly clutching the **hems** of a pair of desiccated monks with their bald **scalps** and peeling skin. It was not difficult to understand why he mistook the **macabre** figure for someone alive. At night, it was hard to tell who was dead and who wasn't, for the dead became the living and the living? Mere passerbys. The shadows rejuvenated their hallowed and hollowed cheeks, the silent screams of their mouths becoming wholesome once again. For the over-imaginative, the whistle of the wind might even be their breaths and their laughter.

“Child. I am here,” Father Benedicto announced his presence.

The boy gave a sigh of relief, “Thank god! Thank god!” was all he could say.

“Here, take my hand,” reassured the aged priest, pressing the cold thin hands of the shivering child into his palms.

“Father, thank God you came!” the boy exclaimed breathlessly. “I yelled and called and cried, but no one would listen to me!”

Funny, I didn't hear him, Father Benedicto silently noted to himself, “Don't worry,” he spoke in

his firm, warm voice, “It's all right now.”  
“But you don't understand! It was so terribly frightening! The people, they wouldn't listen, they wouldn't answer me, but all the time I felt they were whispering, whispering among them.”

Don't we all feel that? The **reverend** thought.  
“And they felt so cold, and they had this weird smell, like one of my uncle's stuffed animals!”

Father Benedicto contemplated for a moment whether or not to tell the boy the truth, but thought people were better off not knowing. He allowed himself a small smile, before saying, “Dear, dear child, let's not worry. Now we can return outside, and I'll make you some nice hot cocoa.”

It was some time before the young boy could calm down, when he finally did; Father Benedicto reminded him gently, “Now, now child, you really mustn't stay out in the night like this. It's chilly down here.”

A faint chink of recognition lit up in his mind, had he seen this child before?

They walked down the hallway towards the exit hand in hand. “But all the people here, aren't they cold?” inquired the child with a start.

Such an affectionate child, the priest told himself. “My dear boy, they are sleeping. Besides, they are used to it here.”

“But why can't I sleep with them too?”

“It's not in your place to do so. Child, each of us has our place in the world,” he gestured towards the **assembly** of the departed. “Their place is here, and beyond, but yours is with your parents. Child, with your parents.”

An electric current of realisation jolted through the old priest as he repeated that last sentence.

“Are you all right, father?” asked the child innocently.

“I'm quite all right, son, don't mind me,” he lied.

The two approached the gate, only it was closed shut.

“Oh dear. The wind must've blown it shut!” said the little boy, his recovered spirits snuffed out.

“Yes, the wind. Yes, indeed,” Father Benedicto repeated.

“Father?”

The man had slumped down, his back propped up by the spindly iron gate. “Son, son, come here to me,” he whispered faintly. A memory awakened. A recollection of a dark, wicked deed that had stained his hands, twenty years ago.

The child stood obstinately immobile.  
“Son, please, please let me take one look at you.”

Sinister thoughts blossomed in his mind, sinister memories. He remembered, reluctantly at first, then with relief of unburdening his guilty conscience, a fragile memory buried deep amidst a web of lies and self-deception.

Twenty years ago, he had killed his son.  
“Son, please.”

The child was silent.  
“Son!” he grasped the hands of the child and looked him full in the eyes. The boy moved no more.

“Son, son, son,” he sobbed.  
His son was a dead body. ■



Illustration: Dickens Chu 5C

**catacomb**: [n] a series of underground passages and rooms where bodies were buried in the past  
**corpse**: [n] a dead body, usually of a person  
**reverent**: [adj] showing great respect and admiration  
**hem**: [n] the edge of a piece of cloth, such as the

bottom edge of a skirt or dress, that is folded over and sewn so that it does not develop loose threads  
**scalp**: [n] the skin on the top of a person's head where hair usually grows  
**macabre**: [adj] describes something that is very strange and unpleasant because it is connected

with death or violence  
**reverend**: [n] a title for a priest of the Christian Church  
**assembly**: [n] a collection of things or a group of people or animals

(Source: dictionary.cambridge.org)

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# Highway 43

By Junior Editor-in-Chief, Mathew Ho 3K

Ranging from the Rocky Mountains not far from the Pacific Coast in Canada to the cold tundra of the numerous frozen islands near the North Pole runs Highway 43. It was rumoured that the highway was a highway of mysterious deaths and numerous spirits.

I am Jason Murphy, a former exorcist. I see things people cannot see. The following are extracts in my journal during my travels along Highway 43.

December 24th

Dear Journal,

Dreadful weather tonight. "Not on the night before Christmas!" I told myself. I was on my way home when there was this ghastly blizzard. I couldn't get home and now I'm stranded in a cheap motel by the highway.

I really miss my family. Such a great time we could have: all the fun on Christmas day, to hang the stockings, to fill them with presents, and to see the smiles of my grandchildren on Boxing Day when they dig their little hands into the voluminous garment. First I missed Thanksgiving, now, from the looks of it, I'll have to spend Christmas

Eve miles from home, having dinner in this dingy diner.

There was, though, one thing that's happened to make things a bit more interesting. A plain woman in her mid-thirties with absolutely wild hair just came in and asked for a few dollars to refuel her car. It looked as though she was also stuck in this blizzard, but young people nowadays never have any sense, do they? Anyway, she wasn't planning to stay. She was going home, she told me, but ran out of fuel and money. I gave her ten dollars and wished her the best of luck. I didn't see her after that; she seemed to have disappeared.

P.S. I've noticed something odd in my room. It's a crystal squirrel, about the size of an outstretched palm, on the bedside table by the window. I went over and picked it up to have a closer look. It was icy cold. I wondered if someone had left it there. I must admit that it's an exquisitely crafted figure, but I'm really much too tired to care. Perhaps I'll just take another good look at it tomorrow.

December 25th

I intended to get back home by noon. I really mustn't miss my Christmas lunch.

There's just a thing or two that's been on my mind. The squirrel's gone, but in its place is an acorn. Some bored prankster, perhaps? I've checked twice. It's probably nothing, but I can't seem to find any footprints.

And then there was the lady. When I passed by the gas station, I asked the old man at the counter if he had seen a woman in her mid-thirties last night, he said no. "But there was a woman, very close to your de-

scription, who bought fuel with ten dollars last year. Poor Mrs Oak, she had a car crash on the night before Christmas. She was trying to get back home." ■



Illustration: Dickens Chu 5C

# The Bright Side of Darkness

By Junior Reporter, Jason Chung 3Y

Darkness swept across the land as night fell. One by one, lights from the buildings were switched on. Darkness looked at the bright vibrant city sorrowfully. The light pollution was too strong. He sighed and decided to head to the countryside.

Darkness felt gloomy especially in these days. He didn't like his scary image. He was often associated with evil and danger, symbolised as a source of fear. He was portrayed as a villain and an enemy to people. Writers often used darkness as an antagonist. Cruel words were used to describe him.

"Why can't I be liked by everyone else, just like brightness?" Darkness thought.

Darkness could also see a noticeable decline in his status. In the old days, he didn't have a likeable character just like now, but at least he gained the fear and awe of people. However nowadays, with the inventions of electric lights people were no longer scared of him. In fact, he felt he was being totally ignored, as if he was no big deal.

Darkness crossed the river to the rural areas, where signs of civilization appeared sparsely.

Darkness spotted a small cottage sitting unnoticed in the woods. He swooshed down to the spot and saw a blind hermit meditating outside his house.

"I feel your presence, darkness. Being blind, I could feel you every single moment," the hermit spoke softly.

Darkness could not answer back, but the hermit, as if hearing Darkness's thoughts, continued, "Many creatures adore you, Darkness. Nighttime is a paradise for predators, a show time for wolves. Bats, worms and many animals don't even need light to survive. Not only animals, but we humans love you too. You provide sleep and rest for us. You create a majestic scene for people at night."

"You know, when you consumed my sight ten years ago, it was you who brought back my life. At first I was scared. I was afraid that I would be useless. But then in your company, I learned to do all kinds of everyday skills again in the dark with my hearing instead of sight. You helped me regain my

strength, my courage and my life."

"Look at the sky. Look at space. You are everywhere in this massive universe. You are the oldest thing that has ever existed. Brightness, on the other hand is minute and insignificant compared to you. Without you as a contrast, he means nothing."

Darkness realized, "No one is useless, it's just I hadn't discovered my usefulness yet." He returned to the city, reached a boy's room, extinguished the light in the room and cooed the boy to sleep. He did this to every

single person in the city until morning came and he left the city to the other part of Earth. ■



Photo: creepypasta.wikia.com



# A RISING STAR—BROTHER CREAM

BY JUNIOR REPORTER, HENRI LEUNG 1Y

Celebrity cat, Brother Cream, lives in a convenience store in East TST. The British Shorthair was born in 2005 (currently seven years old). Now, he is a top cat star in local media and Facebook, attracting a lot of people to visit him because of his cute appearance.

Brother Cream has starred in two TV commercials. The first commercial was made for “Nikon”. The second commercial was for Wing On Travel Agency, and split into three different parts, each with a different theme. He just walked, climbed, jumped in those videos, and viewers went crazy for him.

Brother Cream has gained around 120,000 likes on his Facebook page. Over 100 photos and 12 videos have been posted since 2011. The page is updated at least a few times a week.

As one administrator of Cream's Facebook page and also an office lady working near the convenience store, Koey said, “The page was originally set up to post different pictures of Brother Cream's daily life and share Cream's daily movements and was not really with a purpose. However, we still hope that the posts on the Facebook page will be able to spread the message of animal abuse prevention and can bring positive effects on its followers.”

Koey added, “A lot of pet abuse and abandonment cases were reported in Hong Kong lately, but most people still love and protect pets, which is a good thing to see.” And she hopes that the pet owners can take good care of their pets, and decrease cases of animal abuse.

Brother Cream stays in the shop from Tuesday to Sunday with one day off per week. He usually sits on the bookshelves. When visitors approach him with a camera, he is very photogenic, taking a pose and looking into the lens. Brother Cream is not afraid of strangers, and he would do whatever he wants in front of them. Koey said, “Brother Cream mainly mans the shop, eats and sleeps every day.”

Brother Cream got the name “Cream” from his previous owner, as he is the only white cat among his siblings, which were all grey. Brother Cream, having white fur and pale yellow stripes on his head and back, looks like a furry white cotton ball. He also has a long yellow striped tail and a little pink nose.

According to “Big Boys Club”, an interview program made by TVB,

Mr. Gao, the owner of Sino Convenience Store, bought Brother Cream from one of his friends. Mr. Gao mentioned that Brother Cream had been bullied by other cats at his old owner's home, so the old owner sold Cream to him when he was one year old.

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Brother Cream was lost at 3am, after Mr. Gao had gone away to take some rest and one of his staff took his place to man the shop. Mr. Gao found that Brother Cream was missing, and allegedly kidnapped. The incident was front page news in the local newspaper, making more people know about Brother Cream.

After 26 days, Brother Cream was found in a car park near Mr. Gao's shop; he had lost three pounds. After the incident, Brother Cream has become famous in Hong Kong.

Brother Cream also has a cute partner, “Mui Mui”. She sometimes stays at the shop and plays with him. ■



Brother Cream manning the shop  
Photo: Jo Peng

## Treasures from Ancient Mesopotamia

By Junior Reporter, Felix Tsai 3W; Edited by Panel Head of History, Mr. Philip Chan

Heritage from ancient Mesopotamia, the cradle of modern civilisation, could be found at the exhibition “The Wonders of Ancient Mesopotamia” at the Hong Kong Museum of History from January 30<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The exhibition displayed a timeline of the three empires in Mesopotamia – Sumer, Assyria and Babylon – from about 3500 BC to 539 BC, and their artefacts of arts, literature, science and religion by using animations, videos and pictures. More than 170 exhibits made of gold, bronze, stone and limestone were borrowed from the British Museum.

### Sumer

The Mesopotamian civilisation started in Sumerian and Akkadian city-states, and these people invented the first writing in history known as “cuneiform”. Then next came Assyria, which was named after an an-

cient city, Ashur. In Assyrian society, the king was a central figure of significance in the life of the empire.

The exhibition included roll printings with serpentine seals excavated from Sumer. The “Cylinder Seal Showing Contest and Banquet Scenes” is a symbol of promises made by Sumerians to their gods.

### Assyria

Before the mid-19th century, European knowledge of Assyria derived from biblical references and writings of a few classical authors. On the other hand, the name “Babylon” was a symbol of worshipping.

Some stone relief models made by unknown artists from Assyria could be found at the exhibition. The exhibition used animations to retell the story of the stone walls, such as “The Killing of Lions Gypsum”.

### Babylon

In the section of Babylon, a model of Ishtar Gate was placed at the centre. During New Year festive ceremonies, the Babylonian king, accompanied by the statues of gods,

would pass along the Processional Way and through Ishtar Gate, which was located in the north of the City of Babylon.



The Killing of Lions Gypsum  
Photo: studyblue.com

The exhibition showcased a clay tablet about a mechanism of 60 divisions, found similar to the Babylonian idea known as sexagesimal, a numeral system with sixty as its base. It originated from the ancient Sumerians in 3000 BC, and was passed down to the ancient Babylonians, and it is still used today in a modified form for measuring time, angles, and geographic coordinates.

The animation showing the complete story of the stone relief im-

pressed visitors the most. Miss Chui, a member of a Christian tour group, said, “I wasn't holding high expectation, but I have learnt the history of Mesopotamia. The animation is very educational and vivid in telling stories to visitors. But I think the tour guide's voice was too soft to hear clearly, so I chose to visit the museum all by myself.”

Mesopotamia embraces modern Iraq, northeastern Syria, and southeastern Turkey, stretching across River Tigris and River Euphrates. The exhibition could not cover all parts of Mesopotamian history and some relics were destroyed during the Iraq War in 2003.

The upcoming exhibition, “The Splendours of Royal Costume: Qing Court Attire” will open on 31<sup>st</sup> July. ■