

KANG CHIAO SPOTLIGHT

Issue 3



Exploring My World: Theme-Based Projects at Kang Chiao

~ Jason Harmon

Curriculum Coordinator, International Department

We all have different inspirations, but one goal: a better world. Technology has connected the world and made global issues. Children have the capacity to deal with these issues if given the right skills. Theme-based project learning at Kang Chiao is our unique way of guiding our students to become global citizens; first by focusing on themselves, and later by expanding to their community and eventually our world.

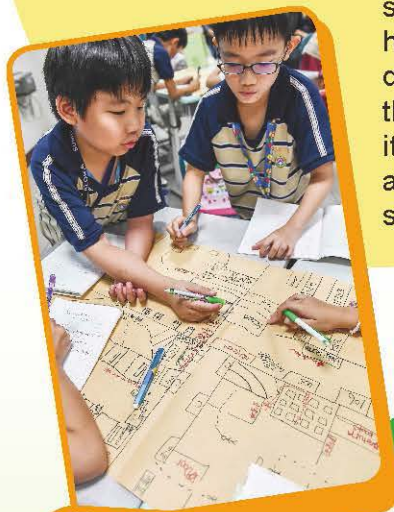
The content of theme-based projects at Kang Chiao differs based on grade-level, but the purpose remains the same: develop global citizens who think globally while acting locally. The learning process starts with a theme extended from a text. The theme is integrated within existing curriculum to make it age and level appropriate. Cross-curricular lessons and group activities enable students to participate and reach a shared perspective. The end result is a learning experience that benefits students for years to come. Let's take a look at some examples:

Grade 3 & 4

Exploring Myself and My Community

As students mature, they start to explore themes linking themselves to their community. In grade four, students explore Kang Chiao's campus to Learn through Discovery. Students develop a plan to explore KCIS for places that offer learning opportunities. They collaboratively create a map of the school and discuss what areas benefit students. They

start to understand how a community is designed to benefit the people who live in it, and that we must all respect the shared space we use.



Grade 1 & 2

Exploring Myself

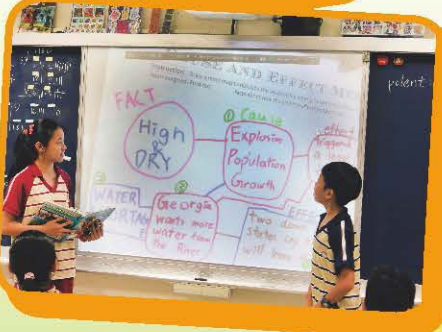
Before students learn about large issues, they must first understand themselves. That's why themes in lower grades focus on the student as an individual. A grade one theme explored is Let's Work Together. Students explore the theme by working together to plan and write a short play. As they work on their play, students take note of how each group member contributed. Their writing focuses on how each individual's efforts improve the product of the group as a whole.



Grade 5 & 6

Exploring Myself and the World

In upper grades, students think globally by exploring themes relating themselves to the world. Grade six students delve into environmental issues of clean water during their Drip, Dry project. Students learn about causes of water shortage and its effects on people. They research products that help reduce pollution. The students use their research to write persuasively about how and why people in Taiwan should use eco-friendly products. Students are able to think globally and act locally.



From the Editor

Raising a Globally Aware Citizen

國際處主任 賴國宜

As the world continues to become more interconnected, teaching children about global issues and engaging them in communication with people of different cultures is of huge importance. By engaging our students with real-life problems and global issues such as poverty, climate changes and water pollution, we aim to help them become global citizens who will take action to make the world a better place. Our Curriculum Coordinator, Mr. Harmon, introduces how theme-based projects involve students to explore the community and the world through a broad range of topics. Mr. Warmke elaborates on how sixth grade teachers are engaging students with real-life issues surrounding poverty. Through understanding the effects of poverty, students are inspired to take action by leading a school-wide donation drive. Please encourage your children to participate in the donation.

科技發達，縮短了國與國之間的距離，國際教育是協助學生從地球村的觀點認識人類相互依存、彼此合作的事實。在設計英語專題課程時，我們將認識世界及多元文化融入學習活動，透過國際議題的探討，培養學生世界公民的概念，進而對整個地球產生責任。藉著「貧窮」專題，六年級外師引導孩子深入探討貧窮問題發生的原因及其對個人、家庭甚至社會的影響，也啟發孩子思考自己可以做什麼去改善這個問題。希望孩子了解問題之後，能關懷弱勢並發揮自己的影響力。延伸於此專題，六年級學生將發起「為家扶中心扶助的孩子募集物資活動」，誠摯邀請各位家長鼓勵您的孩子響應此活動，跟著六年級的學長姐一起用行動去表達關懷。

You must be the change you want to see in the world.
Mahatma Gandhi



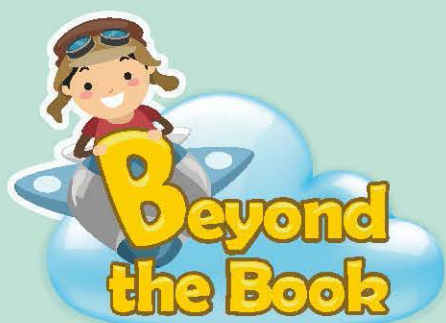
What's New?

Christmas is coming and a number of exciting activities have been planned for every grade.

- ★ Grades 1 and 2 will hold a Christmas carol show.
- ★ Grades 3 to 5 will make Christmas cards, advent calendars or posters that tell a Christmas story.
- ★ Grade 6 is holding a school-wide donation drive to collect items for people in need.

With your involvement, we can make this a jolly Christmas season for all!





Local Action Affecting Global Issues: Sixth Grade Poverty Project

~ Zachary Warmke

English Teacher, International Department

Kang Chiao aims to turn its students into global citizens who are aware of the various ways people live their lives. Most Kang Chiao students are privileged to live comfortably, but part of their global awareness education means that they learn about people whose lives are dramatically different from their own. That is a key purpose of the sixth grade project on the subject of poverty.

During the course of reading the story *Mother Fletcher's Gift*, students find that the characters behave in ways that they themselves never would. In order to better understand the story, our teachers led students through a series of special activities. Afterwards, students were better able to understand both the story and real-life issues surrounding poverty.

Our first activity was a series of role-playing games. We began with a contest in which some students were randomly advantaged or disadvantaged. The disadvantaged students complained about the unfair conditions of the game. No matter how skilled they were, victory was nearly impossible. Students suddenly began to understand how circumstances beyond a person's control can determine the course of their life.

To expand on that point, teachers then led students through a team exercise. Student groups made lists of the things they needed to have in order to survive as well as several things they want for fun. Then each group randomly suffered a misfortune such as a house fire or earthquake. The misfortune they received determined which of their needs would be erased from their list.

Several further activities led students to understand how millions of people around the world live in states of poverty. The last and most impactful of these was a presentation by the local charity group Jia Fu. Speakers from the organization visited our school and gave an emotional presentation about families living nearby who have trouble meeting their basic needs. Their presentation reinforced the points we explored previously.

These activities informed an essay on the causes and effects of poverty. Students wrote their essays by combining what they learned with facts gained through research. The essays explain what poverty is, how it happens, and how it affects peoples' lives around the world.



The final phase of our project involves students actually working to help solve problems related to poverty. Sixth graders lead the other grade levels in a school-wide charity donation drive. Teachers will provide guidance, but students will take charge of organizing donations and raising awareness around the school. We will complete our drive right around Christmas, at which point we hope to have collected a sizeable amount of clothes, toys, blankets, school supplies, and more. This project prepares our students to take action when faced with global issues. They will be able to confront real problems in the future and become global leaders of tomorrow.



G6

Student Work



How Poverty Affects Our World

Claire Chiu 邱敬媛 602

Poverty is when people are not able to survive easily because of not having what they need. People who live in poverty may not have enough money, food, or have no shelter. Poverty can affect many things in a person's life, such as living quality and safety, health, and education.

People living in poverty often steal because they are poor. All this crime causes others, such as police, or even other countries, to not trust them. If no one trusts them, the people cannot get help when they need it. These are the causes of bad living quality, which leads back to poverty again.

One major effect of poverty on health is undeveloped medical technology. Because of too few doctors and hospitals, people have bad health. With no one to help them, people get sick and die easily, still without the right knowledge of how to fix this problem.

Areas in poverty often have few schools and teachers. This is because people who are skilled enough to be a teacher do not want to work in areas in poverty. This causes no or little education and many people having no job or low salaries. This is the main reason why many people are poor.

One earthquake, one accident, or bad luck is all that it takes for someone to fall into poverty. These aren't the only effects of poverty. Other things, such as government problems, can also cause poverty. Poverty is worst in countries that are poor or have war and places that are unsafe because of natural disasters.

Ryan Yang 楊喆崙 602

Poverty is being unable to afford your basic needs. The basic needs can be food, water, education, etc. Three things poverty affects are safety, health, and education.

Poverty could affect the safety of a community. People might steal things from other people. So, police officers will bring them to jail. Since they are in jail, it causes them to be unable to support their family.

Health and comfort are also affected by poverty. People can't afford good medicine when they are sick, so, they are difficult to cure, causing them to be unable to work. Therefore, they get no income and couldn't support their family and themselves.

Another effect of poverty is on education. Most people can't afford a good education when they are in poverty, so, they can't get a degree, causing them to not get a good job. Therefore, they can't buy their wants.

Poverty affects many people in the world. These are just some of the many effects of poverty. It is unfortunate that people live in poverty, because while some people have too much money, some people don't even have enough money to buy food.

Yu-Shan Lin 林郁珊 606

Poverty is the situation when people don't have enough to survive. Their needs are not enough to have a shelter, food, or money. I will talk about three major effects of poverty: crime, health, and bad education.

Crime increases and safety declines when there is poverty. When crime increases, people get scared. They will not trust each other. Then they will have less friends or no friends.

When there is poverty, health and comfort decreases. People will be unhealthy. They may get sick one by one. Sickness can spread diseases to others. After getting diseases, people may die very easily.

No education or bad education is an effect of poverty too. Getting bad education makes people have bad behaviors. They will start to become dangerous to people. Finally, they become criminals.

People from all places are affected by poverty. Poverty doesn't just affect crime, health and education. There are other kinds of effects, such as getting less food. Poverty is all over the world. It is different from place to place. It can happen to anyone, anywhere, at anytime.

Letter to the Editor: Take Action Now

Eric Chang 張均豐 604

October 20th, 2017

To the Editor,

Poverty is a serious problem all over the world. For some people who live in Taiwan, it is also a huge problem too. Those people need to worry about what they will eat, wear, and where to live every day. I think people must do something like donating food and money to help them. I hope after five years, nobody will live in poverty!

Most of the people who live in poverty have low-paying jobs. They work for a really long time just to make enough money to pay their rent. They don't have money to pay for other things like medical care, new clothes, food and bills.

In order to help people who need help, our group is collecting stationary and clean clothes at school. We will do a presentation in a grade two class and tell them to come to our classroom to give things that they are donating. Or maybe we'll put a box in their classroom so they can just put their donations inside. I hope that it will help people in poverty in Taiwan.

Sincerely,
Eric

Rubie Jen 任若庭 605

October 20th, 2017

To the Editor,

In Taiwan some people are affected by poverty. They do not have enough money, food, shelter, and clothing. I think we should help them and supply them with basic needs. We need to let poor children go to school and get an education!

Some people in poverty don't have enough money to get an education. Their children can't go to school and don't know the basics. Their parents need to borrow money from others to pay rent, buy food and clothing. If they can't give back the money they borrowed, they will be in trouble.

We will give presents to help people in poverty. We will also give away stationary, books, toys, clean clothing, and much more. These presents will be wrapped up and given to people in poverty. The class we will be responsible for is grade two. We will put a box in their classroom and collect it in week seventeen. I really hope that these gifts help people in poverty.

Sincerely,
Rubie



Fun This Month



A Time to be Thankful



Stuffing is made from bread, celery, and spices, and is baked in the oven.

Thanksgiving is a holiday in the US and Canada where people eat a large dinner with their families. You might know that turkey is a must on Thanksgiving, but what other foods do people eat?

Green bean casserole is made from green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and crispy onions.



Let's not forget that Thanksgiving is about more than just eating. It is a time to "give thanks" or remember the things you are lucky to have. Most people take time to give thanks for their family, friends, pets, and the Thanksgiving meal. They might also give thanks for being healthy and happy, or reaching their goals. Even if you don't celebrate Thanksgiving, take the time this November to tell the important people in your life how thankful you are to have them.

Word Bank

STUFFING
FAMILIES

TURKEY
HARVEST

THANKSGIVING
MAYFLOWER

HOLIDAYS
BLESSINGS

THANKFUL
SETTLERS

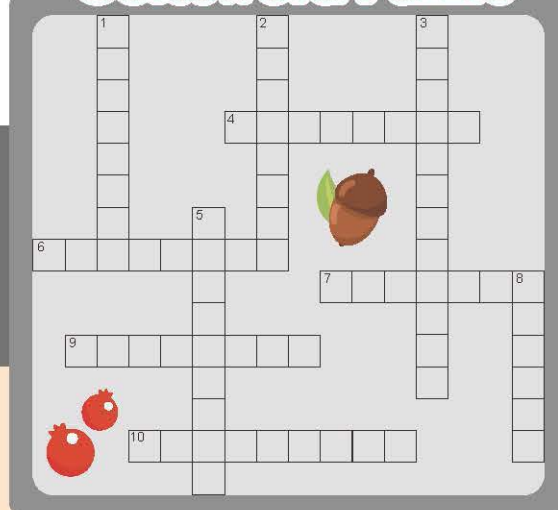
Across

4. Mom put some _____ in the turkey.
6. People don't go to work on _____.
7. Fall is the season to _____.
9. Many _____ like to prepare the meal together.
10. It's wonderful to reflect on the _____ of the last year.

Down

1. We should be _____ for our parents.
2. They were the earliest _____ in the United States.
3. We had some turkey for our _____ meal.
5. The passengers took the _____ from England to the New World.
8. _____ is the traditional meal on Thanksgiving.

Corssword Puzzle



Muggles News

Muggles News is organized by a group of KCIS students from the Reporter Club. We provide the latest and most exclusive report of what is happening at KCIS.

Interviewing Teacher -Mr. Hopkins

by Irene Chen and Joy Liao



We have new teachers every year and we would like to introduce to you one of the new teachers in KCIS, Mr. Hopkins. He is from Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. He has been teaching for 6 years.

He came to KCIS because teachers who he worked with before are teaching at Kang Chiao, and they suggested him to teach here. Mr. Hopkins teaches grades 3 and 4 English and grade 5 KCFS. He's happy to teach here, and he thinks the students at KCIS are lucky because they have more experience and chance to learn English than at other schools. Mr. Hopkins is interested in teaching because he likes to see students learn new things.

We hope that Mr. Hopkins will enjoy teaching at KCIS!

Poverty- Struggling to Survive

by Giselle Cheng, Edward Chao, Iris Lin, Ethan Yeh

This semester, six graders read about a story, Mother Fletcher's Gift. They learned about the causes and effects of poverty. In order to understand what those people face living in poverty, teachers in KCIS invited people who work for Jia Fu to our school on 9/26 and they gave grade six students a lecture on poverty around Taiwan. They were having a lecture, watching videos about poor families, and talking about the suffering of those families in the concert hall.

Poverty is a condition when people don't have their basic needs. Jia Fu Organization is the organization that gives the poor kids and unemployed people some food, clothes and necessities.

In the lecture, people from the Jia Fu Organization showed students two videos. The first video was about a boy who lives with his grandparents. He needs to make his own breakfast and dinner; however, in the summer vacation, he doesn't have any food. The only time he has food is when the Jia Fu Organization comes.

Another video was about a family who has seven children. One of them has a heart problem. Their dad has asthma. Their mom can only do some random jobs. Therefore, they borrowed money to save their daughter and family. The children said that they will be rich to help their dad and mom in the future. When the video finished, students realized how lucky they are to be born and live a prosperous life.

At the end of the lecture, the Jia Fu Organization encouraged students to start making the world different. A lot of students even voluntarily wanted to donate stationery and wish their help can make those poor children's coming year better!

