

KANG CHIAO SPOTLIGHT



World of Words- Monthly Must Reads

~ Roland Claassen

Teaching Coordinator, International Department

Reading is just like everything in life, the more you do it the better you get! The better you get, the more enjoyable the things you read are, the more you'll stick with them and develop the reading skills that you'll need for the future. KCIS provides those extra reading opportunities and makes reading for pleasure an integral part of the school curriculum with our *Monthly Must Reads*.

The *Monthly Must Reads* at KCIS provide students with five books per month with different DRA levels for students with a diverse instructional level in reading. These readings are accompanied by five comprehension questions to encourage critical reading.



Let's take a look at the graph on the right. For the first book, with the easiest DRA level, over 1000 students moved *Look at My Neighborhood* to their library and over 900 students completed the online assessment for this book. Even with the most challenging book, *Toby's California Vacation*, it was great to see that over 400 students started reading the book. This shows that KCIS students

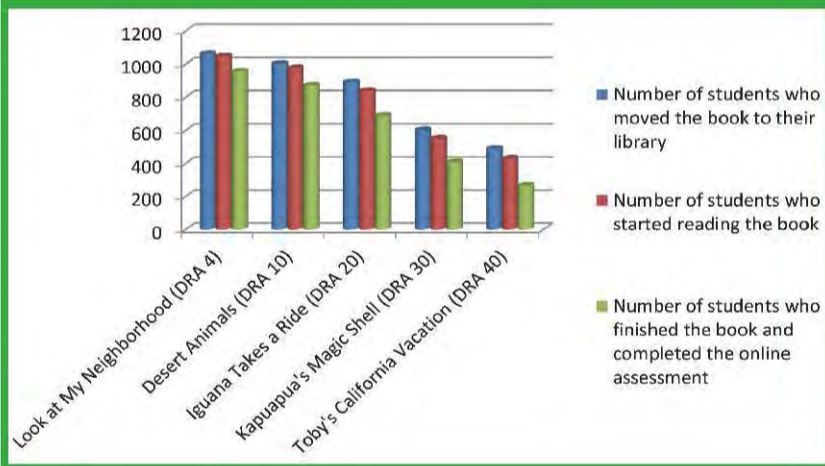
have confidence in their reading ability and it's apparent that the *Monthly Must Reads* have become a good independent reading habit for many of our students.

Why does Kang Chiao encourage independent reading and how does it benefit students to do the *Monthly Must Reads* at home? Let's take a look at a few reasons!

Reading opens doors - doors to factual information about any subject on earth. There's so much more reading and writing going on these days with the advent of things like the internet and mobile technology. Children are growing up in a much richer literacy world. To effectively utilize all the information, both reading and critical thinking skills are of prime importance.



Below are the statistics of the Monthly Must Reads for October 2017.



Reading exposes children to proper grammar and phrasing. It builds vocabulary, enhances the development of their spoken language skills and their ability to express themselves verbally. With the audio file available online, students can listen and improve their pronunciation as they see the words on the page, even if they can't yet read the words on their own.

I've saved the most important point for last. Reading can provide children with endless hours of entertainment. Stories allow children to dream and give them a good start on the road to viewing reading as a lifelong source of pleasure. For the rest of their lives, they will have access to all of the accumulated knowledge of mankind, access to all of the great minds and ideas of the past and present. It truly is magic!

From the Editor

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

國際處主任 賴國宜

The idea of reading for passion is foreign to many students when reading is just something that teachers make them do in school. Mr. Claassen explains how the Monthly Must Reads at KCIS aim to change that. Instead of the teachers assigning reading materials, the students are given chances to choose the kind of story they are interested in reading or the kind of nonfiction they want to learn from. We hope that by providing students with plenty of opportunities to explore reading by themselves, the Monthly Must Reads will turn reading into a successful and pleasurable experience for them. The grade 5 students just finished their persuasive speech project which allowed them to see how many of da Vinci's ideas and sketches inspired modern day inventions. Please enjoy the students' articles to see if you agree with their arguments.

I can't believe how fast this year is going; it is the time again when we get excited about Christmas. We are currently running several Christmas activities at the school, such as Christmas Calendars, making Christmas posters and cards, and carol shows. I would like to wish all our students and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

「去念書！」這大概是所有父母最常跟孩子說的一句話，我們多麼希望孩子能「主動」閱讀且「樂在」閱讀，而不是被師長規定才讀書。Monthly Must Reads的設計就是讓孩子擁有閱讀的主控權，每位學生都有一個虛擬的書架，自己利用時間，瀏覽書目，選擇有興趣的書籍閱讀。根據統計，每個月有超過一千人次持續利用 Monthly Must Reads進行線上閱讀並完成評量，期盼康橋小讀者們能因此養成主動閱讀的習慣。這個月，五年級剛完成有關「達文西」專題的演說文章，他們將帶我們認識更多與達文西相關的發明。

歲末，最令人期待的莫過於聖誕節，今年我們除了聖誕海報和卡片設計活動之外，還有聖誕行善月曆(Christmas Calendar)活動，國際處的中外老師，每天都有溫馨善舉，陪孩子一起倒數聖誕節的來臨。

最後，祝福每個孩子和家人都平安幸福，我們一起迎接嶄新的一年。

What's New?

- ★ It's Christmas and lovely Advent Calendars decorate our hallways. Check a calendar each day to see what fun activities your teachers have planned for you.
- ★ The final assessment is in a few weeks. Stay focused and give your best effort by preparing well in advance.





Improving through Constructive Peer Criticism



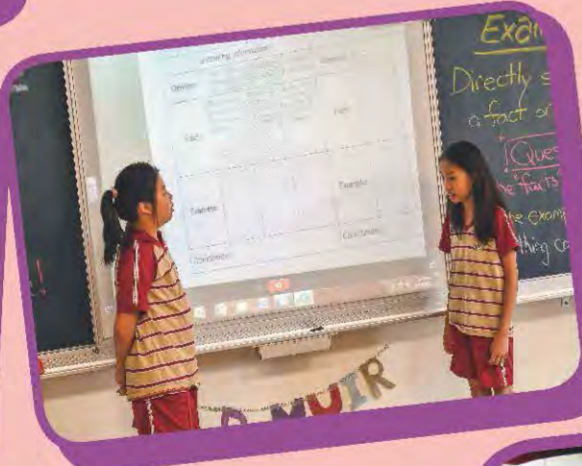
~ David Muir
English Teacher, International Department

KCIS strives to guide students to become the best they can be. One way KCIS encourages grade 5 students is by having them develop and hone their persuasive speaking abilities. This goal, moreover, is fundamental to the fifth grade persuasive speech project. But what is a persuasive speech? And perhaps more importantly, how can persuasive speaking be used authentically in the lives of KCIS students?

A persuasive speech is a speech designed to change someone's mind or to persuade someone to agree with you. We first came across this skill while reading *Leonardo's Horse*, a story about the great thinker and artisan Leonardo da Vinci. The students were inspired by seeing sketches of da Vinci's work. Class discussion allowed them to see how many of his sketches led to modern day inventions that they love, like tanks and helicopters.

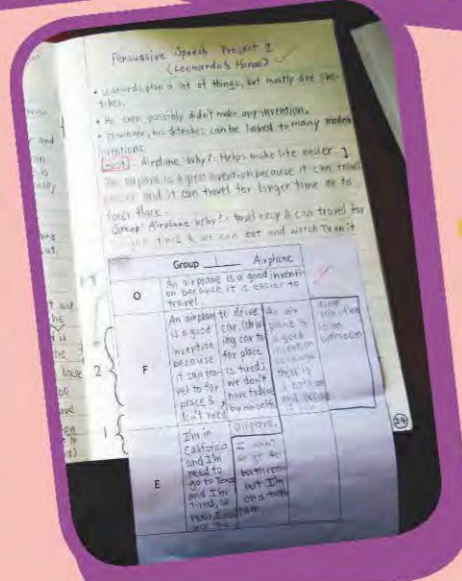
Using the story and the details found within, students were asked to share what modern invention linked to one of da Vinci's sketches is their favorite. However, since that was just an opinion, more details and facts about why this invention is special were required in order to argue persuasively. This was accomplished by having groups of students use their Chromebooks to research information together in order to find reasons and examples to support their opinions. Students looked for information such as how their invention has benefited people or made lives easier.

Having a developed opinion supported by reasons and facts does not mean that others will agree. So, teachers guided students to learn through a debate activity called the *Devil's Advocate*. Students began by presenting their arguments to the class. To facilitate debate, groups of their peers looked for weaknesses in the arguments presented. They were encouraged to point out facts that least supported the presenting group's opinion, or other information that might change their opinion. Once finished, the groups were able to make changes or improvements to their position based on their discussion with and written comments received from classmates. By arguing in this way, our students learned how to support opinions with facts, examples, and details – the tools needed for persuasive speaking.



After the debate, students were now prepared to write a persuasive speech with a well-formed opinion and valid reasons and supporting examples. Furthermore, students used the comments and revisions from the debate as a way to directly improve their writing project. Students wrote about their favorite modern invention linked to da Vinci's sketches, but were able to go further than just stating their opinion. They gave valid reasons such as how airplanes allow people to travel much faster, or how the tank has helped many countries win wars. They used evidence to support their arguments, like how parachutes save many lives.

All in all, the learning experience was immediate and impactful. It was great seeing students thinking intently about their friends' responses. Students are now able to not only express their opinions, but do so in a persuasive way supported by real world evidence.



G5 Student Work

The Armored Vehicle

Millie Wu 吳雨軒 502

Leonardo da Vinci had many great inventions. I think his armored vehicle is the best because it can protect people and help in an emergency.

The armored vehicle can move very fast. It can actually move at about 25 miles per hour on flat terrain. It can also move up to 45 miles per hour on roads. The new armored vehicle, also named the tank, can move up to 60 miles per hour. Tanks are heavy and very strong. They can weigh nearly 68 tons. Tanks are made of a uranium alloy, a kind of strong metal. It also protects people from getting hurt because it's very hard and strong enough to not let people break in. Tanks can see when it is very dark. They have night vision inside them. The night vision helps people to see clearly at night. If you look at the night vision screen, it will actually be green.

I think the armored vehicle is the best. It can save people in many wars, and help people when it is dark. It helps by saving lives and protecting people. If Leonardo was still alive he would be proud of his armored vehicle and how it has changed into the modern tank of today.



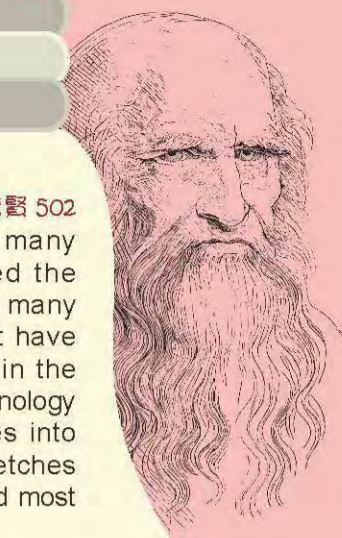
The Tank

Johnny Huang 黃曦野 502

Da Vinci's sketches lead to many modern inventions. He invented the automobile, helicopter, glider and many more. They're great but he didn't have time to make them all. But now in the modern life, people have all the technology they need to make those sketches into reality. Out of all the different sketches and inventions, I chose the best and most useful invention ever - the tank!

The tank is the best invention because it provides protection. It's made of some of the strongest metal on Earth! It protects soldiers from dying when attacked. It's also good in winning wars because it has a giant cannon that shoots giant cannonballs at its enemy and missile launchers which pull off a giant fireworks show at the enemy base! Soldiers can stand in the tank in battle for a bird's eye view, which gives the soldiers the upper hand. It's also good at transporting weapons and important people or top secret files because it's fully protected and armed!

Overall the tank is the best invention and it still will be whatever time it is. Tanks can keep being upgraded. Maybe in the future everybody will have a tank to protect themselves! I think in the end, a tank won't even look like a tank! There are infinite possibilities!!



The Airplane

Christina Wang 王敏雲 508

Leonardo da Vinci was an artist who lived in Vinci. He sketched many things; some of them are still being used today! They include planes, bikes and scuba gear! It is very amazing! I think the plane is a very special thing because people can travel to faraway places with it.

I think the airplane is also a very amazing invention because it can allow people to travel all over the world. If I need to travel to another country, I can take a plane. It is the best choice because it is fast and it's better to travel with.

In conclusion, the plane is helpful to people who want to travel to far places. It is the best thing to use to travel around the world. Thanks to Leonardo da Vinci for inventing the plane - I think it is his most amazing invention!

The Revolving Bridge

Ricky Hsu 徐翊斯 508

Leonardo da Vinci sketched many inventions and made some as well. The revolving bridge is my favorite. The revolving bridge can make travel easy and make life easier.

Leonardo's revolving bridge can quickly transport people across a river. It has wheels that can make it move faster. It can help armies travel quicker than usual. It can make a path for cars to cross a river. The revolving bridge can also allow boats to go through as well. It can let the cars and the boats go at the same time. Leonardo's revolving bridge inspired the person who built the first bridge. The bridge has an aerial ferry on it. The aerial ferry can swing from one side to another with cars on it.

The revolving bridge is amazing. It can let the cars go across the river as well as the boats. It makes travel and life easier and I think it is Leonardo da Vinci's best invention.



The Aerial Screw

Michelle Wang 王奕晴 505

Leonardo da Vinci had many great sketches and inventions. I think the aerial screw is the best. Aerial screws have changed into helicopters today. Helicopters can make life easier, and they provide help during emergencies.

Helicopters are capable of taking off and landing easily and they can hover and fly in different directions. With all the things they can do, they can be useful for photography and tourism. They can let people see different sides and directions of scenic views. Some helicopters have two horizontal rotors which spin in opposite directions, allowing them to lift heavier objects. They can carry heavy things such as trucks. Some can even lift an airplane! The 47H Chinook can carry very heavy things, maybe even three elephants! Do you want to know what the speed record of a helicopter is? Its speed is about 400 kilometers per hour. The 47F Chinook is the fastest helicopter in the world! Isn't that amazing? Fast helicopters can take people somewhere fast and can rescue people quickly in emergencies.

I think the helicopter is the best. It can carry heavy things, be used in tourism and photography, and can rescue people. It helps by making life easier and saving lives everywhere.





Dear SANTA



Christmas is around the corner... have you been naughty or nice? Remember, your behavior decides whether you get a bunch of presents under the tree, or a lump of coal in your stocking. Though it may not snow in Taipei, there are still many activities you can do to get in the holiday spirit this December!

Thieving Secret Santa - Secret Santa is a fun way to celebrate Christmas with friends. A group of friends will bring one present to a party, but won't write their name on it, and will wrap it so no one knows what it is. Players can take turns grabbing a gift and opening it, or stealing a present that has already been opened. When your gift gets stolen, grab another from the pile!

Mail a Letter to Santa - Santa Claus lives at the North Pole, so how can you send a letter to him? Well, anybody who can give presents to 91 million children in one night can figure out a way! In fact, Santa has an address:



Santa Claus
Santa Claus Main Post Office
P.O. Box 96930 Arctic Circle
FINLAND

Will you get a reply? Write a letter to him and find out.

Christmas Calendars - Christmas is an exciting time filled with anticipation. Everyone stares at their calendars because they can't wait for December 25th to arrive. The advent calendar is a tradition that dates back to the mid 19th century in Germany, when people would light a new candle each day until they had 25 on Christmas Day. Our students will continue this tradition with a modern, caring twist. They will create a calendar with 25 kind things they can do. They can be big, like helping do chores, or small, like saying hello to a stranger and getting a small piece of candy as a reward. The Christmas spirit teaches us that no act of kindness goes unnoticed, whether it is big or small.

Every year, Kang Chiao gets students involved in Christmas festivities. This year, our grade 6 students have organized a charity drive for a local organization, Jia Fu. Our grade 3, 4, and 5 students are encouraged to make Christmas cards about ways they will help others during the Christmas season, or to write a Christmas story on a poster. These will be displayed nearby a Christmas tree on the 6th floor. Finally, our grade 1 and 2 students will visit different classrooms singing Christmas carols that they have practiced with their CETs. Such a cheery atmosphere is sure to brighten students' moods during December!



Muggles News

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

Interviewing Teacher -Ms. Jenny

by Edward Chao and Sonic Lin

We interviewed Ms. Jenny, a Chinese English teacher, who teaches the fifth and sixth grades. Her goal for teaching is to let the students improve their English. In her class, she likes to discuss and



brainstorm with her students about the readings. One unforgettable thing that happened to Ms. Jenny was when students once asked her, on their first day of school, when her birthday was, and then later sang a happy birthday song to her on her birthday. She was really happy and had an unforgettable birthday. Ms. Jenny wants all her students to know how to respect and appreciate others. She wants all the Kang Chiao students to be loud and proud.

KCIS School Anniversary

by Brian Hsieh and Dylan Pak

Kang Chiao celebrated its anniversary from October 20th to October 27th this year. The celebration activities began with a swimming competition for the third and fourth graders on October 21st, followed by the fifth and sixth graders competition on October 22nd. The competition was for improving students' swimming skills and also to build up sportsmanship. Besides the swimming competition, Kang Chiao held a school fair on October 27th. On that day, students from grade one to grade six took turns going to different booths which were set up by teachers. Teachers set up many kinds of activities and games for students to visit. Students were all very excited and enjoyed to play at the booths.



Spooky Haunted House

by Yu-Shan Lin

Kang Chiao's anniversary is very close to Halloween. The International Department teachers as usual dressed up like witches, ghosts, zombies, or anything that is related to Halloween. They set up booths for students to visit, such as Face Painting, Haunted House, Feed the Monsters, Creepy Crawly Maze, 90 Seconds to Win! etc.... The Haunted House is always the most popular booth for students. You can always



hear some screams when you are outside of the Haunted House! This year, we interviewed a sixth grader who just came out from the Haunted House. "The Haunted House wasn't very scary, it was pretty interesting. The room was very dark, so I couldn't see things clearly. There were ghost pirates who were screaming and lying on the ground!" she said. From the conversation, we could see that this year, the theme of the Haunted House was about ghost pirates.

After the school fair, we are looking forward to the theme of next year's Haunted House. Are you?

