

KANG CHIAO SPOTLIGHT

Issue 8

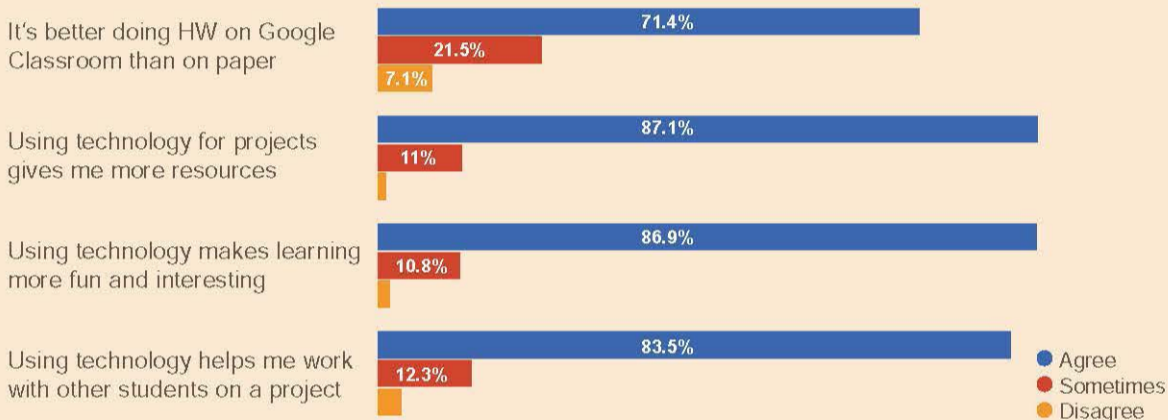
Smart Classrooms for Engaged 21st Century Learning

~ Roland Claassen

Teaching Coordinator, International Department

Kang Chiao International School is starting to incorporate more technology into our classes to prepare students for a technological future. This is the 3rd school year we have provided a one-to-one initiative that gives every fifth through sixth-grade student a Google Chromebook. Their Chromebook is just another tool in their school bag which promotes project based learning, collaboration, engagement and equips students with all the necessary digital skills for the 21st century. The International Department did a recent survey with all grade 5 and 6 English Teachers and students to get more feedback on using technology in and out of the English classrooms.

2018 Technology Usage Survey



Using Google Classroom as a platform for homework:

Google Classroom is a platform used by our teachers and students to distribute, collect and even grade homework. Around 71% of our students feel that doing homework on this platform is far better than doing it on paper. Some students mentioned that having it online takes away the stress of losing or forgetting homework. Our teachers also find it very useful. One teacher emphasized, "I only need to click a few buttons on Monday morning. It takes five minutes to distribute, and Google Classroom now grades homework too, so that takes no time at all."

Technology promotes deeper Project-Based Learning:

Technology is a powerful learning tool that teachers can harness to make learning meaningful, relevant, and rigorous. One teacher quoted, "It's nice to have literally the entire world, in digital form of course, at the touch of a button." When technology is integrated into powerful instructional approaches, like Project-Based Learning, learning can go deeper. Students can do more in-depth research, create surveys and use online educational programs to create videos, storybooks, blogs and online reviews. Technology also makes it possible to involve a larger audience when publishing projects, creating authenticity. Students are significantly more enthusiastic knowing their work will be seen by real people outside the classroom. 87% of our students feel it's a great resource for projects. One student stated that, "Anything that anyone in the world knows is on the internet. With technology you can go anywhere, and find anything."

Technology in the classroom helps to foster collaboration:

Working with G Suite allows students to co-edit documents, spreadsheets, and presentations in real time. 84% of our students agree that technology makes collaboration on tasks so much easier. "We don't need to move our seats to work

on projects. We can simply share and collaborate on one document."

86.7% of our teachers also feel that with Google it's easier to collaborate and share documents among students, teachers and administration. One teacher wrote that, "The nature of the Google platform makes collaboration a breeze for all."

After this survey we can confidently say that technology helps promote homework, engagement, project-based learning and collaboration. We are excited for next year as we are planning to utilize technology in such a way that it helps streamline projects and teach skills that will better assist students to accomplish writing and learning tasks. In this renaissance of technology, we must be leaders and innovators. We have the means and the ability to raise students who are prepared for whatever the future might bring. At KCIS we are already thinking about the future!

From the Editor

Learning Beyond the Conventional Classroom

國際處主任 賴國宜

What's in your mind when you think of a typical classroom? Do you still imagine a teacher writing on a blackboard with chalk and students writing with a pen on paper? That's not what we usually see in the grade 5 and 6 English classrooms at KCIS. Technology and the internet have brought substantial changes to our lives and also to education. Implementing the Chromebook and digital learning allows teachers to increase their efficiency and productivity and facilitates students to learn beyond the classroom. In our latest survey, most of our teachers and students of grade 5 and 6 agree that technology helps homework, collaboration, project-based learning and makes learning more fun and interesting.

Time goes by quickly. It's hard to believe that there is less than a month of school left. We have almost finished English Open Day for all grades. We are proud of how hard our students worked towards their presentations. I'd like to thank our teachers and staff for all they have done to help the students, and also the parents who attended Open Day. Your participation sends a powerful message to your child about the importance of learning and growing together.

當您想到教室，腦中呈現什麼景象？您還在想像老師在黑板前解說，學生拿筆抄寫？科技和網路改變了我們的生活方式，也對教育造成很大的改變。數位學習的導入和Chromebook的運用，讓教學更多元、更有效率，也讓學生的學習不再侷限於教室裡，從Mr. Claassen的問卷分析，發現大多數高年級的老師和學生都認為數位科技有助於資料蒐集、與同學協作、作業完成並讓學習更有趣。

隨著每週一個年級的青山Time和English Open Day的發表，眼看這學期只剩一個月，充實的日子過得特別快，各年級的家長出席率創下歷年新高，感謝所有家長的出席，您的參與讓孩子明白您對學習的重視，也是對老師和孩子們最大的鼓勵。



KCIS students create their picture books by using digital art programs



KCIS students share their movie reviews online and interact with others



Grade 4 Project How to Start a School Newspaper: KCIS's 16th Birthday



~ *Kathy Chu*
English Teacher, International Department

Which school event makes you feel the most excited? Every year, on the school's birthday, KCIS holds various events for the students to explore and enjoy, such as a Halloween party, swimming competition, and special lunch. This time, our grade 4 students became professional news reporters and created their own news articles to describe these school events. We would like to build a friendly environment for our children to explore the job content of news reporters, generate their own interests, and finally guide them to write down their own pieces of news. So, are you ready to explore with us?

What's in a Newspaper?

From reading How to Start a School Newspaper, students learned to understand the process of producing a school newspaper. Doing so requires various jobs and duties to cooperate with each other. News must also be categorized into fields of interest. To extend this project and make it relevant to students, teachers introduced what would be the main idea of the students' very own newspaper: KCIS's birthday. Students began by brainstorming what activities were held for this event. They recalled attending various booths with games and competitions with friends. The students then chose the activity they were most interested in so they could research and report on its highlights.



What are the elements of a newspaper?
How is it structured?

The Interview Process

To be a reporter, it is very important to collect the opinions of others by asking proper questions. Thus, the next task was designed for students to brainstorm diverse interview questions in order to gather opinions about the various school activities. After generating questions, students filtered the most relevant questions to ensure the quality of the answers received. Students then got the chance to interview students from other grades, as well as the KCIS faculty. Doing so allowed them to come back to class with primary source information, a necessity for news articles and reporting.

Putting it all Together

For their writing, students briefly introduced the activities they chose, organized the ideas and opinions of others, and finally wrote their own suggestions and perspectives for how to improve the activity in the future. Last but not least, students presented as if they were professional reporters, sitting in front of the whole class and broadcasting the various KCIS birthday activities. Students felt like they were in a newsroom presenting news of importance to them. For our students, it was a special experience and remarkable challenge to achieve.



Students conducted interviews to include primary sources in their articles.

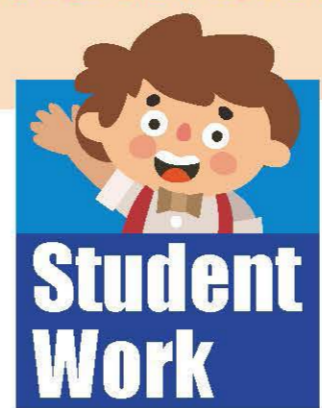
Every semester, students at KCIS enjoy many memorable experiences. Projects like this give students the ability to properly document and reflect on such experiences. Creating questions and interviewing their peers is an authentic way to teach students how to gather information. Students now know how to explain real world events by using primary sources. These skills will serve them valuably in the future.

What's New?

★ Time flies and the final hurdle of the year is approaching fast. The final assessment that will be held during week 18 for grade 1 to 5 and week 16 for the Grade 6's, is your chance to end off this year with a bang. Remember that good luck comes to those who work hard!



Presentations allowed students to gain experience as news reporters.



Celebration of the Halloween Season

Natalie Chien 簡婕安 401



On the 27th of October 2017, the teachers and the students celebrated the birthday of KCIS. Teachers prepared lots of different Halloween booths on the 3rd, 5th, and 6th floors. All of the students in KCIS participated in these activities.

Some girls really liked the activity "Face Painting". There are a lot of different pictures, and you can pick your favorite one, and ask the teacher to paint it on your face or hand. Other students also liked the activity "Feed the Monsters". You

need to use chopsticks to pick up marbles and put them into a bowl. But be careful, you need to feed all of the marbles to the monster in one minute, otherwise you'll fail the game.

For next year, some of the students suggest that teachers can make more scary booths for students to play. Some of them think some booths are for the 1st and 2nd graders to play, and are a little boring, so they want to have more scary booths for the 3rd to 6th graders to play. There are also some students who think the activities were a lot of fun this year, so we don't need to change everything.

The Most Scary Haunted House Ever!

Bella Kuo 郭庭妘 403

The 27th of October 2017 was KCIS's sixteenth birthday. There was a creepy activity called The Haunted House. This year's theme was pirate ghost. It was on the third floor. The ghosts inside were acted by the teachers in the school.

In the haunted house students screamed and ran inside, but they really enjoyed it when the pirate jumped out to scare them and grab them because they thought it was exciting. However, some students thought it was fake because they accidentally saw a costume in a teacher's bag. Some suggestions for next year are: Someone thinks the hallway can be longer and scarier because he thought the hallway was too short and the haunted house was not scary enough.



Water Sports Day

Andrew Chen 陳育維 401

On October 21st, 2017, the grade 3 and 4 students in KCIS went to the gym for the exciting Water Sports Day. Students worked together to win swim races, and everyone participated in the games. Everyone participated in lots of games on that day. Many students raced together to win the races. Parents cheered for their children. You could swim any kind of stroke that you wanted to. Every student swam in the swimming pool for the races.

Most of the students enjoyed the class relay the most because they can work together to beat other classes. They also liked the different swimming competitions that can earn a lot of medals. Students felt more confident every time they got rewarded. While the students were swimming, the classmates got to hang out with friends and cheer for each other and make the swimmers more confident through their encouragement. Many students suggest that the swimming coaches can also swim on the same day because they are all masters, so it would be more exciting. Someone suggested that students can swim with the parents and race with them. This would make parents and children feel really good.

The Special Lunch in Kang Chiao

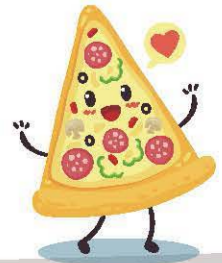
Max Chen 陳宇閔 406

All the students in KCIS stayed in their homerooms to eat a yummy special lunch that included fried chicken, vegetables, soup, fries and noodles.

One of the grade 4 students said that he liked the pizza. It was very yummy, because it had lots of cheese on it. The fries were very yummy too, because they were very crunchy.

Some of the students suggested that next year we should probably have cookies for lunch, because many students love to eat cookies. Other students suggested that we should have more vegetables because they are good for our bodies.

My teammates and I suggested that we should keep fried chicken on the menu because fried chicken is fried, so everyone loves it.



2017 KCIS Class Party

Terrence Lin 林子淵 407

The class party took place in homerooms on October 27th. KCIS students were playing in classrooms with their friends. All students from grades 1 to 6 had a class party on that day but at different times.

One of the grade four students said that he liked the class party because he didn't need to read, and he could bring chips to the party. The other students liked it because they didn't need to do anything, and they could bring toys to play with at school. But some people didn't like this because they wanted to bring their iPhone X to school, but teachers said bringing smart phones is against the school rules, so my teammates would like to ask the teachers about bringing smart phones to school next year.

My team liked this year's class party, and they think it was very great, and they hope that next year, they can play more games and bring 3C products to school. The class parties were not boring at all. My team and I also think the playing movie part was the greatest because students could do anything they wanted like eating. When the movie was done, we had the greatest lunch "IN THE WORLD" waiting for us.



A Mother's Day to Remember



We celebrate Mother's Day every year, but do you know how it began? A woman named Anna Marie Jarvis started the holiday when she gave a speech honoring mothers around the world in 1908. She also sent 500 white carnations to her mother's church to honor her memory.

The carnation is seen as the perfect flower to represent mothers because it "never drops its petals", but "hugs them close to its heart". Mothers do the same, caring for and comforting their children. They cook, clean, and decorate the house, while also making us feel loved. This year, Mother's Day is on May 13, and we at the KCIS Spotlight would like you to take a moment on this day to let your mom know that you love her just as much as she loves you.

How to do that? Keep reading to find out!

Write a card- Using your best handwriting, write a card that sends a special message to Mom. Don't just write that you love Mom...tell her why. Tell her about one time she did something that really made you feel loved, or write about a special memory you have with her. Mom will realize you do care about things she does, and she will feel loved right back.

Offer to do the chores- You may already do some of the chores at home, but this Mother's Day, why not offer to help your mom out more around the house by cleaning, vacuuming, or just straightening up. Odds are, your mom will tell you it's easier to do those chores herself, but insist that you want to help her. She'll appreciate it.



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.

Interview Mr. Massingale

By: Adrienne Hsieh, Brian Hsieh

Mr. Massingale is from Georgia, and he taught in a high school while he was in America. After Mr. Skelton came to Kang Chiao, he, then, convinced Mr. Massingale to come to Kang Chiao to teach because they have been friends since they were kids. Mr. Massingale came to Kang Chiao to teach in October 2014. He taught first and fifth graders before, but he is teaching third and fourth graders now. He likes fourth graders the most. He said it is his most preferable age to teach. As for Kang Chiao, he likes teaching here because he likes to have vacations, and he can go on vacation during the summer and winter holidays. He also likes his own classroom which gives him more privacy when he prepares for his lessons.

Mr. Massingale is a serious-looking teacher; however, he also talks gently. It is good to have a teacher who takes your learning seriously. You are very lucky if you have been taught by him.



Little Ironman Competition

By: Ethan Yeh, Giselle Cheng

Kang Chiao International School requires students to be good athletes. Therefore, students from grade 3 to grade 6 have to participate in the Little Ironman Competition. Grade 3 and 4 students need to swim 150 meters and run 600 meters and grade 5 and 6 students need to swim 200 meters and run 1,200 meters.

This year, the grade 3 students had their first Little Ironman Competition. This was a new experience and challenge for them. We asked one of the grade 3 students how he felt after the race. He said the whole process was very tiring. He was also very nervous, but he still tried his best to complete the competition. He said that he will definitely try to run and swim faster in fourth grade.

As for the grade 6 students, this was their last year to participate in the Little Ironman Competition. One of the grade 6 students told us that this was his fourth year to join the race. He said that even though the distance for running and swimming is longer, he still thinks it is not too difficult for him. He said that the race will be an unforgettable memory for him and he is looking forward to the challenge of the real Ironman Competition in Junior High. This competition is challenging and fun for most of the students.



Grade 6 English Open Day

By: Sonic Lin



April 25th was the 6th graders' last English Open Day. Students in the Foreign English Teachers' classes worked on the Travel Expo project. This project was for students to reflect on their own travel experiences, and they chose countries that they wanted to introduce to others. They used their persuasive skills as travel agents by explaining the landmarks, food and culture to persuade their parents and other students to visit

their chosen countries. As for the Chinese English Teachers' classes, students worked on an Innovation Expo project. The purpose of this project was for students to choose technology products or services that they use daily, and by adding some new features, show how they might change in the future. Students used 3D drawings to introduce their products and tried to persuade their parents to invest in their products. During the presentation parents all listened carefully and asked lots of questions. One of the parents was very impressed with a particular groups' creativity, and gave his sticker for their product that he would like to invest in.

All the grade 6 students did a fantastic job. The grade 6 English Open Day was a big success.

