

KANG CHIAO SPOTLIGHT

Issue 31



Digital Citizenship and Twenty-first Century Skills

~ Zachary Warmke

Curriculum Coordinator, International Department

Every year since our school was founded, we have updated our curriculum to keep pace with evolving technology. Preparing students for the modern world has always been our goal, and expertise with technology is a crucial step towards reaching it. We employ a variety of high-tech tools to streamline our English language arts curriculum and to make learning more engaging.

Technology's Presence in Society and our School

Modern life is dominated by technology. The Internet is such a part of daily life that most people can't imagine living and working without it. At KCIS, we focus on teaching students to use technology safely and responsibly by limiting their level of control while building basic skills. For instance, our youngest students practice spelling on Word Circus, which is colorful and simple. Older students instead use Quizlet, which is more complex, but provides more resources. In this way, students build their English and technology skills together.

We eventually guide students from these simple programs to ones used by adults in the modern workplace, like Word and PowerPoint. The technology and language skills build on one another, meaning students learn more and more each year.

New Developments

KCIS teachers continuously revise projects to determine if new technology can help. Our projects benefit from recent developments. Fifth graders now create websites as part of their final project. Doing so requires multiple technology skills. The project allows them to express their creativity in ways that would be impossible by traditional means.

The biggest implementation of technology is the Hooked On Books program. Students read books and then take quizzes online. The system helps them track books they've read and suggests others they might be interested in. It encourages students to read more books and to think more deeply about them.

Technology also helps students indirectly. Our first graders recently wrote book reviews. After they finished, we displayed the book reviews on new digital screens in the library. Students were proud to have their work displayed, and they will be excited to talk to their friends about their favorite books in the future.



Overall, technology gives both teachers and students more tools for practicing and learning English. Our teachers use technology to help younger students develop basic skills. When they graduate to higher grades, students learn to use technology themselves in order to take their learning to new levels. The skills they learn assist in schoolwork, and they will also transfer into their future lives when they will need them to succeed in university or a career.

Finally, Taiwan has been mostly unaffected by the pandemic. However, in case of emergency, our staff are ready to transition to online learning. We have detailed plans for teaching our entire curriculum online. We can start remote classrooms in less than 24 hours if necessary.

Looking Forward

Our approach to technology has been quite successful. We continue to update our tools and procedures while keeping our strong core curriculum. Our students are well-rounded citizens whose skills serve them whether they are using the newest technology or not. As we proceed into the future, we will continue to explore more ways to keep pace with evolving technology.



From the Editor

Goodbye 2020 & Welcome 2021

國際處主任 賴國宜

Today's children who are called "digital natives" grow up in an environment surrounded by digital technology and perceive the world through different eyes from the previous generation. They do not find it complex to integrate technology, but on the contrary, often use it with ease. At KCIS, besides employing a variety of technology tools within the curriculum, we aim to promote our students' technological literacy which is the ability to understand what technology is, how it works, and even further, to design and build things to solve practical problems. You will learn more about how we integrate technology within the English program from Mr. Warmke's article.

Let's celebrate this cheerful New Year with a smile. We wish you and your family happiness in 2021.

這一代的孩子被稱為「數位原生代」，科技讓他們幾乎生長於與上一代截然不同的環境。不斷改良的技術，讓我們幾乎不用擔心孩子不會使用科技，然而，身為教育者，我們思考著更重要的使命，除了動手實作，還想涵養學生更高層次的思考，引導他們善用科技。這些年來教師團隊一直將科技融入列為課程發展重點，透過「與生活連結」的方式，自然的將科技工具導入，例如：以往的專題研究成果常常利用海報呈現，現在可以透過Google簡報或網頁的製作，甚至影片拍攝等多元方式展現，如此一來，不只提升作品分享的效率，也提高學生創作的動機，讓學生感受到科技對他們的幫助，同時也激勵他們投入更多心力學習與專題相關的知識。

本學期新推出的Hooked On Books課程，便是一個將數位學習融入閱讀課程的例子，透過閱讀平台和學校圖書館的藏書，孩子們的選擇變多了，每個人都能依自己的程度和興趣選書，一年級外師引導孩子運用文學要素，撰寫並分享書評，過程中，孩子不只學會閱讀和賞析，也變得更熱愛文學、更能享受閱讀的樂趣。

2020年終於結束，希望新的一年帶來新的氣象，祝福大家事事順利，闔家幸福安康。

Beyond the Book

My New Favorite Book



~ Ashkan Dehgoli
English Teacher, International Department

First grade students at Kang Chiao International School have embarked on a journey into discovering their passion for reading. Thanks to the number of book genres and authors available, students can escape into other worlds. Our new guided reading program, Hooked On Books, gives all students an opportunity to dive right into the pool of books the library has to offer. With the swipe of a card, students walk out with their new favorite book of the week.

In our recent grade 1 project, My New Favorite Book, students reviewed and shared one of the books they've read this year. They first identified the type of book, title, author, setting and characters. With help from partners and the teacher, they focused on the most important elements of the story. Doing so helped them write book reviews that were persuasive and expressive. This project encouraged discussion among students about books. It also helped them develop critical reading skills which are vital for their academic development.

My New Favorite Book

The project began with a discussion about the books students enjoyed reading. They made a list of the books they read this year and which ones they enjoyed most. Then the teacher helped them classify the list based on genres and themes. This discussion guided students to think critically about their reading habits. We used this information to visit the KCIS library and search through rows of books for a "just right" book – one that would not be too easy or too hard – to read during Hooked On Books time.

The students were highly motivated by this project. In fact, most of them were not satisfied with choosing a single book. They instead chose up to three books to read and choose as their writing subject!



The Hook

Students took a week to finish their books and consider the story elements. Then, in the classroom, they met with a partner to read "elbow to elbow and knee to knee". Sitting this way while working helped students stay organized while reading their books together. While one partner read aloud, the other helped them identify the details of the story. Then they completed a mind map together to identify the most important parts of that story that should be included in a book review. That information would become the review "hook" that would persuade others to read the book.

Chapter of Life

Reading is such an important aspect of growth and life. Reading about other students' perspectives helps students learn beyond their own experiences. The benefits of reading are abundant and it is clear that reading encourages children to be open-minded to learning and to develop pleasantly in learning environments.

This project had much success. In choosing "just right" books, students considered their own reading habits. By working with others, they developed good communication strategies. Such challenges are difficult and impressive for a first grader to accomplish. To further extend their learning, they reflected on their story and thought about what they thoroughly enjoy. Finally, sharing their reviews with others was fun and interesting. Our students now frequently discuss their favorite books and try to persuade their friends to read them. All of these elements combined for a great writing project that will lead to even more enthusiasm for reading in the future. It would be a great idea to look at your child's book review and talk with them about their new favorite books!

Quiz Contest

Have you ever been ice fishing? Read this month's "Be a Science Wizard" to answer the question.
 What causes the surface of the ice cube to melt a little?
 (A) The string causes the surface of the ice cube to melt a little.
 (B) The salt causes the surface of the ice cube to melt a little.
 (C) The water causes the surface of the ice cube to melt a little.
 Please submit the answer before 02/17 (Wed).

What's New?

★ During the winter vacation, remember to spend some time on your winter vacation homework and practice for the Inter-class Competition. We wish you a happy Lunar New Year!



G1 Student Work

A Day for Dad

Melody Lin 林洛安 101

It is Father's Day! Ben uses clay to make a cat as a gift for Dad. Ben gives his dad a very big hug. My favorite part was when Ben hugs his dad. It is nice because Ben's dad likes that the best. I also like to hug my dad, too. I think everyone should read this book.

Characters: Ben, Dad, Cat
 Setting: at home

Clumsy Crab

Kimi Huang 黃允謙 102

First, the crab is looking for friends. Next, he finds a sea turtle, jellyfish, and an octopus. Last, he asked the jellyfish to look at him. Then he hides in the shell. He jumps out and says Boo! He broke the shell! This book is really funny.

Characters: Crab, Sea Turtle, Jellyfish, Octopus
 Setting: Under the sea

The Day of the Bad Haircut

Gigi Tu 涂嘉琪 106

Molly got a haircut, but her mom cut her hair too short. Molly needed to hide. I like when Molly was getting her haircut. Go find this book in the library! It's so good!

Characters: Molly
 Setting: Park

I Want to Be a Clown

Phineas Janis 凌彥霖 103

This story is about a clown. The little man wants to be a clown. He will paint his nose bright red and ride a bike. I like when the clown wears a silly hat. This book is really good to read. Go read this book!

Characters: Clown
 Setting: Park

From Dad

Chloe Huang 黃政晴 104

In the story, the girl has a new T-shirt. It is a funny book. I like when her T-shirt is too small. You should read this book, too. I think this book was excellent!

Characters: Little girl, her dad, Freshman
 Setting: Park

The Moon

Patrick Lin 林士鈞 102

A huge rock from space hit the Earth four million years ago. The moon does not have light. In the book, scientists study the moon rocks. This book is so interesting. I think it was excellent!

Characters: The moon
 Setting: outer space

Little Lizard's New Baby

Andrea Chen 陳曉彤 101

This book is about a boy who gets a little sister in his family. My favorite part is when Lizard's mum gives him a new sister. The baby is very cute. I think this book was excellent!

Characters: Little Lizard, Lizard's mum, New baby
 Setting: Garden

The Moon Cheese

Gemma Chiang 江琬樂 108

This book is about a lizard and a fox who want moon cheese. They do a lot of things to get the cheese. My favorite part is when the lizard dives in the water! I think this book was very good!

Characters: Lizard, Fox
 Setting: Lake

Olivia Takes a Trip

Chloe Li 李妍曦 106

This story is about Olivia and her family going to grandma's house. My favorite part is when she is on a plane. I think this book was excellent!

Characters: Olivia, Jan, Grandma, Dad, Mom, William
 Setting: Gas station, Home

Too Many Dogs

Elsa Liao 廖宜潔 107

In this story, the dogs want to eat a man's food. There are so many dogs, like a big dog and a fluffy dog. I liked when the man comes, the dogs run away. I think you will like this book!

Characters: dog, and man
 Setting: Home



Mouse Wisdom Find Your Inner Strength!

~ Roland Claassen

Assistant Director, International Department

Harry, the hippo, is the strongest and biggest student in the school. Mickey, the mouse, is the smallest student in the school. One day Mickey moaned to his mother and said, "I want to be as strong and big as Harry the hippo."

"Listen to me, Mickey. Inner strength is far more important than outer strength." Mickey thought about what his mom said, and the next day in school it was time for oral presentations. When it was Mickey's turn to present, he convinced himself he was the bravest mouse in the world. He marched to the front, stood up tall, and spoke with full confidence. The class was so fascinated with his presentation and Mickey realized the importance of inner strength.



What can we learn?

It is not the size of a person but the size of their heart that matters. Good inner strength allows us to face any problems we might have and live our life to the fullest.



Ice Fishing

~ Agnes Wang

Teaching Coordinator, International Department

If you were asked to lift a floating ice cube from a glass of water without getting your hands wet or using any utensils, could you do it?

You will need:

- A glass
- A 15 cm piece of string
- An ice cube
- Some water at room temperature
- A salt shaker

What to do

1. Put the ice cube in the glass.
2. Put enough water in the glass to make the ice cube float.
3. Sprinkle some salt on the ice cube.
4. Land one end of the string on the ice cube and wait for a minute.
5. Slowly lift the string.

What happens?

The string freezes onto the ice cube, so the ice cube can be easily lifted.

Why?

When the salt touches the ice, it lowers the freezing point of water to below 0°C and this causes the surface of the ice cube to melt a little. As the string touches the surface of the ice cube, the water refreezes and traps the string. Use this fantastic "icebreaker" to get your next party started!



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.

Christmas At Kang Chiao

By: James Chi, Louie Chou

Christmas is one of the most exciting holidays of the year. This Christmas, the school prepared a lot of fun activities for the students. To kick off the Christmas season, the English Village sold Candy Grams. Students were able to send Christmas cards with candy canes to surprise their friends and teachers during Christmas week. Among all the Christmas activities, Grade 1-3 students were most excited about winning a jar of candy canes. On December 17th and 18th, the lines at the English Village waiting for cookies and hot chocolate laced around all of English Village. Last but not least, the students also donated toys to help children in need. The students were able to have a month full of fun and joyful activities.



New Year Resolution Advice from Mr. Devine

By: Anna Lai, Evelyn Wu

What are your new year's resolutions? Let's ask our grade 5 and 6 English teacher, Mr. Devine. "Last year, my goals were to try to avoid sugar, run 10 kilometers every day, and try to learn how to cook Indonesian food." After a long year full of sugary temptations and grueling runs, he was able to achieve all three of his goals! According to Mr. Devine, he

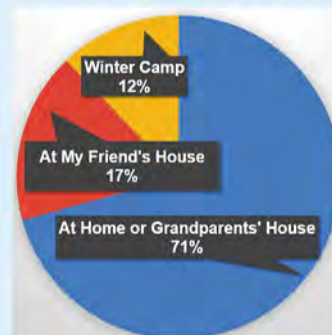


would not have achieved his goal without diligence and tenacity. Mr. Devine encourages us to make sure that we are patient with ourselves if we fail and make sure we have achievable goals. As you accomplish your goals, remember why you made them in the first place. Do you have any goals you want to achieve?

Winter Vacation

By: Hao-Ting Chen, Ryan Tsui

The winter has finally come, and winter break is right around the corner! Most houses are filled with joy, but due to the Coronavirus, students will not travel to visit their loved ones abroad. We sent out a survey to grades 5 and 6 to see what they will do for Christmas this year.



Way more than half of the students will be spending quality time playing with their friends and families in their beloved Taiwan homes. 12% of the 5th and 6th graders will go to the school's winter camp perfecting their swimming, basketball, and drama skills. We also found that some Kang Chiao students wish to enjoy spending time in Tokyo shopping and eating delicious sushi. Maybe next year?

