Although nowadays there are still a lot of poor families in Hong Kong, the living conditions have improved a lot. But for many people of the earlier generations, they had a much tougher life beyond our imagination. Our Principal, Mr. Wong, grew up in poverty. Now let’s get to know more about Mr. Wong’s childhood!

Interview with the Principal
By Tina Lui (4A) and Betty Lau (4E)

Family background
- His father was a construction labourer.
- His mother ironed clothes for others.
- A grass root family with 11 members

From early childhood, Mr. Wong’s parents kept telling him that the only way to improve his life was through education.

Living conditions
- The whole family shared a three-decked bed in an open flat, without rooms. (You can refer to the following picture)

Mr. Wong slept on the floor, below the first tier, under the whole bed, next to some brushwood, which was used for building the fire for cooking etc. One day, he woke up and found two dead baby mice next to him.
- Although the living conditions were harsh, Mr. Wong had a lot of fun as he could play with many other kids happily.
School life

Mr. Wong's tough childhood made him strong in his pursuit of education. Here he shares some things about his school life with us!

- He always took notes no matter what the teacher said even though he might not have understood anything about it. It helped him to concentrate in the lessons.

- English was very difficult for Mr. Wong until form 4 when he had a teacher who gave him more confidence to do his best. This was unusual because all his other classmates complained about the teacher’s lessons. For Mr. Wong it was a turning point in understanding the language.

- Forming study groups with friends makes learning and revising more fun and efficient. He studied with his friends until the sky turned dark.

- He really does embody the ‘never give up’ attitude. He spent one year solving an equation which his friend solved in one day!

- He and his friends pooled their money and bought and shared reference books.

WELCOME!

Hello Readers, welcome back to our school newsletter produced by our very own Chuen Yuen students. In this issue, exciting school events will be described to you. Teachers and students share their views on life, pursuing dreams, and learning strategies, etc. You will also find the poems written by our debut poets in Form 2. We hope you enjoy this little but amazing work presented by your excellent newsletter team. 😊

If you too are interested in taking part in the editorial or design team for the newsletter, feel free to contact Ms. Carmel Phillips or Ms Deng Ying Hui.
Hi! I’m Ivania from 1D. I was thrilled when I was asked to help in the 45th school anniversary variety show. It was really an invaluable experience for me. My duty was to provide technical support for the musical ‘Oliver Twist’. I played the powerpoint which provided subtitles for the musical, aiming to help the audience understand the story better. Although it was not very difficult, I had to be detail-minded and very attentive to the performance. I had to listen carefully to what the actors and actresses were saying and show the correct subtitles. I heard the audience clap heartily after the show. I felt excited and proud as I could play a part in such an important event even though I had only joined CYC two months earlier. Thank you, Miss Deng, for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.

The day of the Christmas Tea Party I was so excited that I got up at 5:30 a.m. I went to school with my classmates earlier to decorate our classroom. After half an hour’s work, our classroom was filled with a festive mood. Some of us had made yummy food, such as apple pie, sandwiches, cheese cakes and cookies. I made some fish balls and cookies too! We carried the food to the ground floor carefully. It was just like carrying a precious baby. We didn’t want to take any risk of damaging the food.

After that, we went to the hall to worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. When the assembly was over, we started our Christmas Tea Party! We took the food back to the classroom and we ate it at once. The food was delicious and though there was plenty, it was finished very soon. Only the packaging boxes and cutlery was left! While we were eating, some of us exchanged Christmas cards. It was meaningful as we expressed good wishes to our teachers, classmates and friends! We bid farewell to lovely Sophia, who was quitting CYC to move to Taiwan. She was so moved that she cried. We watched some videos, listened to music and sang the very popular theme song ‘Let it go’ from the Disney cartoon Frozen. Then, we had a gift exchanging session. I got a lovely teddy bear from my best friend Kitty! I love it so much! The Christmas party came to an end. Reluctantly, we tidied up the classroom, took photos and left the school.

I felt very happy and excited. I think it was the most amazing and happiest Christmas tea party I have had. All of us had a wonderful time. It was a meaningful day for me.
I became a narrator

I had held the belief that our drama teacher would be a serious and horrible person, but soon I found that I was totally wrong. Miss Meaghan was friendly and nice. She always played with us and helped us if we had any problems. After a few lessons, we had to decide which character we were going to be. I became a narrator who read out the storyline. As a professional actress, I knew I needed to work hard and remember the dialogue as soon as possible so that the show would be better.

The first show

On the 7th July I wore my beautiful costume, the lovely pink dress and stood on the stage and the show began. Although I was a bit nervous, I had been preparing for it for a long time. I told myself “Kandy, you are wasting your practice if you make any mistake because of terror.” Finally, what do you think? Of course, it was successful. I got great satisfaction from the audience’s big hand. Everyone was full of joy.

You are Olivia

After this fantastic experience it was announced that there would be another show for the 45th anniversary on the 15th November and what’s more there would also be an Olivia Twist in that show! I wondered who would be Olivia and to my surprise Miss Meaghan asked me whether I wanted to be her! I was as happy as if I could fly to the sky. However, being the main character is much harder than I imagined. Luckily, the F.4 students like Betty, Abby and Brian helped me a lot. They taught me many skills and what I should be like during the show.

The anniversary show

“It’s your turn to do your best without any regret.” I encouraged myself again. This time I did not wear a dress anymore; I wore a blue shirt, poorly, like the other workhouse boy characters. Could anyone find me out? I put all my feeling into the show, and spoke as loudly as possible. I did not feel scared. The only thing in my brain was how to do the best performance I could. I was really tired after the show, but I grew a lot during the training. I also met many new friends there. I am very lucky that I joined the Drama Class. Do you want to have an interesting school life like me? If so, why don’t you join us this year?
Hi schoolmates. What a brand new year and there are so many brand new things! What can you think of? Let me tell you one. I believe that everyone must have noticed that we have a DT Club in Chuen Yuen College this year! I wanted to know more about it so I interviewed the chairman of the DT Club, Simon Kwok from 4E. Now read on to find out more.

Abby: Why did you want to create a DT Club?
Simon: Actually, I just wanted to have fun at first.

When I was in form 3, Mr. Law, our DT teacher told me that we wouldn't have DT in the next year. However, I really love DT! So I decided to create a DT Club for all the students, seniors included, because there are no DT lessons in the senior forms.

Abby: Did you have any difficulty during your preparation?
Simon: I think the biggest difficulty was putting together the proposal for the creation of the DT Club. It was because I needed to consider the idea of the proposal and the committee organisation etc. Fortunately, one of the committee members, Susan Law from 4E, helped me a lot with all the stuff and finally we had success.

Abby: How did you feel while you were waiting for the result of the DT Club application?
Simon: I was not so worried actually because I was confident that my proposal was able to convince the principal to let me create this club. However, the waiting time was really tough.
Abby: Is there anyone that you want to say thank you to?

Simon: Just what I said before, I really want to say thank you to Susan Law because she helped me a lot with the proposal and thank you to Mr. Law as well. It is because he always gives me good advice on the different functions.

Abby: What was your first function about? How about your preparation?

Simon: Our first function was making a keychain. The function was very popular and all the places were full. So we decided to run it again to let more people join it. About the preparation, I think almost 80 percent of our preparation time was used for testing the production method and our preparation time was almost one month.

Abby: Why are you so interested in DT?

Simon: I think that when you finish a product that is handmade by yourself and finish all the steps with your own hands, such as the flute I made in Form 1, the feeling is so great. When I finished the flute I had such a feeling of success!

Abby: Would you consider choosing a job that is related to DT in the future?

Simon: Actually I haven’t thought so far into the future. I think I would not because there are so few jobs that are related to DT in modern Hong Kong. I think it can be a relaxing thing to do away from a busy work life.

Abby: Thank you for taking the time to have this interview!

Simon: My pleasure, thank you!
**Our Tips in doing well in the Speech Festival (dramatic duologue)**

by Kate Chiu Hau Yau (4E)

1. Remember all the lines. This is the basic requirement. We saw quite a lot of contestants forgetting the lines.

   **Incredible? You can do it. Challenge yourself next year!**

2. Do research as much as you can so that you can understand the thoughts of the speakers. It is of vital importance to convey the meanings and show your understanding of the piece by reading about the history, such as Anglicanism (S.K.H in Hong Kong) set up because of the argument between Catherine and Anne.

3. Practice regularly and sufficiently. It is better than the last minute intensive practice.

4. Put yourself in your character’s shoes. It helps you to use the appropriate tones and gestures so as to bring the characters alive to the audience. It is the key point to engage the audience and the judge.

Kate and Shunem have done a great job and won the champion in the dramatic duologue event.
Survey on Christmas

By Gary Chan Chi Hung 5B & Molly Wong Tong Yan 5C

Recently a survey was conducted among the junior form students to gather their views on Christmas and how to celebrate it. A total of 120 schoolmates from a selection of S1-3 were interviewed. They were asked 12 questions.

The survey showed that 92% of the students were looking forward to Christmas. When they were asked the date and purpose of Christmas, more than 90% of them answered the questions correctly and understood the historical purpose.

During the Christmas period 61% of students would spend most of their time with family, 26% of them with friends and 8% of them with online friends. In addition, 59% of students would celebrate Christmas by shopping, 13.5% of them would enjoy buffet but only 4% of them would go to church.

We were very interested in finding out if students decorated their homes with Christmas decorations during this period as they do in western countries. Therefore, one of the questions asked was ‘Will you decorate your home before Christmas?’ 70% of them would do so but 30% of the students replied that they would not.

Christmas is a time of giving and therefore the survey was interested in finding out if our students give presents during this period. 58% of students said they would give presents to their family and friends. 38% of them would choose to give snacks, 36% of them would choose decorations and the rest would choose clothes. However, 42% of students would not give presents to others, they claimed that they had no ideas for presents and were uninterested in giving presents at this time.

To conclude, 54% of students thought Christmas was their favorite festival. It can be seen that Christmas is meaningful and popular among the junior form students. It is also clear that they look forward to this festival and enjoy it very much.
The school sports days are an event that involves the whole school and gives us a strong sense of spirit. We all watch the competitors and cheer them on. This year was no different and the competitors fought hard to achieve their best even though the weather was so cold. But there are many other students involved in the sports days; they are our schoolmates who volunteer their service to the school to help out at all the many different events.

Normally the newsletter will be about the competitors but this year we wanted to introduce you to some of our schoolmates who stood out in the cold and rain to help the competitors do their best and assist the teachers in charge of the different event.

I interviewed ten students for a quick summary of their feelings about sports day.

**IC Liu Tsz Ching and Wan Wing Yu**
Post: High Jump
"We enjoyed the day very much. We felt excited, especially seeing the participants competing with each other and the record-breakers."

**2D Lai Cheuk Wing and Lam Sze Ki**
Post: Starter
"Being a helper was interesting and exciting."

**3D He Ru Jie, Frankie and Lui Kwan Hong**
Post: Position Judge
"We enjoyed being helpers. It was interesting and we learnt a lot. It was cold and we got really tired but we felt excited, especially when seeing the participants who we recorded for, win the competition."

**4D Chan Shuk Ting**
Post: Time-keeper

**4D Chung Wing Lam and Yeung Yuk Ling**
Post: Finishing Recorder

**4D Yim Wing Sheung**
Post: Hurdle, corner/Take-over
"We felt excited and happy at being helpers. It made us have more fun on Sports Day, it wasn’t as boring as usual. We volunteered to be Sports Day helpers and we would like to be a Sports Day helper next year."

*Put your hand up for being a helper next year and have a great two days!*
I got the idea from my fish bowl. There are lots of lovely shells in it. I guess they help make the fish happier as they have added so many colors to the lonely color of water.

It took me a long time to decide the theme of the drawing. Then one day, I turned on the TV and it was broadcasting exciting football news. I told myself that this was what I wanted to express: the vigorous sport of football.
Optical Illusions and Visual Trickery

Depending on how you view this picture, you can see either two children holding a dog or the image of a skull. If you can't immediately see the image of a skull, back up a few feet.

The full title of this ambiguous image is "Life And Death As Seen Far And Near". It appeared in a magazine in 1886.

This is just one of many illustrations that have been made where objects within the picture form a skull when the picture is viewed from a distance. The most famous of these is ‘All Is Vanity’ by Charles Allan Gillbert.

Source: http://www.puzzles.ca/large_print_word_search.html
http://www.puzzles.ca/optical_illusions/life_and_death.html