

# LEAP POST

VOLUME 1 | NOVEMBER 2009

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## From the Editor-in-Chief



*Carmen Li, a journalist and the founder of 21 Concepts, spent time with our students to share her professional work and experiences.*

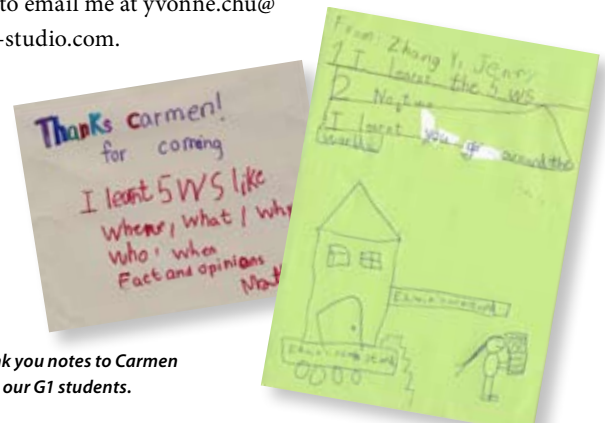
**W**ith great joy and pride, we announce the birth of LEAP Post! This issue would not have come to fruition without the dedication and hard work of our students.

LEAP Post is a publication that doesn't just report on students' works; it stands for the integral learning community we are passionately fostering. At LEAP Post, we celebrate the creative minds of our students at all levels and use this publication as a vehicle for expression and communication among students, parents and teachers.

We hope this issue – which touches on editorial topics from teaching religious studies in schools to government spending on fireworks to the influence of television on kids – helps to get your wheels turning. Together our students explored journalism through meeting with a professional journalist, developing their editorial topics and contributing to this publication as writers and editors. Carmen Li, the professional journalist, shared her experiences and insights with the students. She discussed important skill sets (critical thinking, communication and wealth of knowledge) of being a successful journalist and key ethical pitfalls (plagiarism and fabrication) facing her industry. The students' works reflect their understanding of the editorial

structure, their critical thinking ability to generate persuasive arguments, and their creativity to gather supporting evidence. For the younger students, they created a final output that consists of all the key elements of a news article such as headline, image, caption, a story using the 5Ws 1H (Where, Why, Who, What, When, How) and an interview. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of this great learning community.

We look forward to bringing you more editions that would feature a wide spectrum of interesting topics and writing styles. Meanwhile, I'd love to hear your feedback about this issue. Feel free to email me at [yvonne.chu@leap-studio.com](mailto:yvonne.chu@leap-studio.com).



*Thank you notes to Carmen from our G1 students.*

# Government should use different celebrations to replace fireworks

BY JOURNALIST HUGO CHAN (G4)

Do you know that every Chinese New Year and National Day is celebrated by fireworks? Isn't it boring? Do you know that on National day the government spent about \$3,000,000 on fireworks? Why can't the government give the money to the poor people to change their lives? Most of the poor people's lives are very sad. I believe that the government should spend less money on fireworks during special events.

When you set up a firework, it pollutes the air very badly. According to the Associated Content website (<http://www.associatedcontent.com>), when a firework explodes, many chemicals are used including charcoal and calcium and sulfur compounds that comprise gunpowder. Some of them are toxic. The toxic dust in the fireworks can easily enter our lungs and cause health risks.

On Chinese New Year and National Day, the government set up a firework show for only 15 minutes and they spend \$3,000,000. This money can be used in lots of better ways like changing poor people's life, education, and residential developments.



Government is using fireworks but not other celebrations.

Some people think that fireworks can attract tourists to come to Hong Kong. But firstly firework pollutes the air badly and may cause sickness and secondly it is very expensive, the government can use the money in better ways. They can also have different celebrations which are cheaper and don't pollute the air like laser beam show, parades, and concerts. These forms of celebrations can still attract tourists to come to Hong Kong.

It is time to write a letter to the government, to tell them that we can use other celebrations to replace fireworks for special events. Everybody should stop the government to set up fireworks!!

# The Lamb and the Jackalope

BY JOURNALIST JASMINE TAM (P1)

Once upon a time, there lived a little lamb called Fluffy. Fluffy loved to dance. Where did he live? Well, he lived not far away on a short mountain plain. But one awful day when Fluffy was dancing in the sun, he suddenly saw a cart with a man driving it. A man came out of the cart. He ran to the lamb and snatched his leg. When it rained the man took Fluffy home and shaved his beloved fur. After that the man went back

to the place and threw Fluffy there. Fluffy looked at his reflection and saw himself shaved and was very sad. And his friends laughed at him. He was so shy that he hid in a bush for one night till morning. Next morning a jackalope hopped by and saw Fluffy. Then the jackalope said, "What's the matter little fellow?" Fluffy told the jackalope his story and the jackalope told Fluffy that even though his fur was shaved, he could still dance. And remember that

he still had his body and he was still alive. Fluffy understood the jackalope and the jackalope taught him how to dance. First the jackalope told him to put his right leg up and thump it down as hard as he could. When Fluffy did what he was told, he jumped into the sky and landed to the ground and bounced again but this time upside down! So the next time he was shaved he still didn't give up dancing thanks to the jackalope!



Fluffy was a happy little lamb. But one day his fur was shaved so he was very sad.

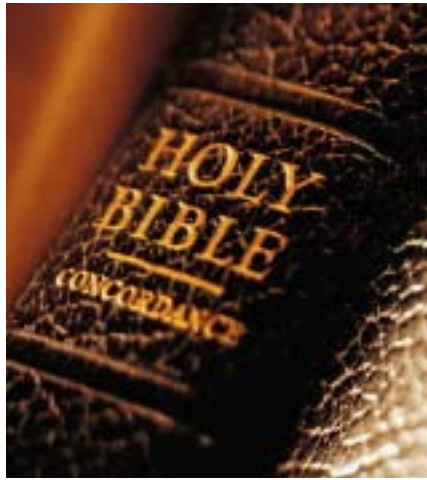
# Religious Studies? What a subject!

BY JOURNALIST GESSY LI (F1)

You can hear the sound of chattering from far away during this lesson, see students chatting non-stop and doing their own things. The teacher and students talk at the same time. This is the lesson of Religious Studies (RS). Should RS even be taught at school?

The major reason to not teach RS in school is because not everyone is religious. According to the US Department of State's 2008 Religious Freedom Report, only 20% of the Hong Kong population is religious. And for the 80% who is not religious, schools are forcing them to believe in a certain religion instead of teaching it as knowledge. According to Article 23 of the Hong Kong Basic Law, we all have the freedom of religious belief. It is important to have freedom in religious belief so that we can have independent thinking -- the basic need of a free society. Teaching RS in school contradicts with our freedom of belief because it doesn't give you freedom to choose your religion. In my class, the teacher says that she is not forcing us to believe in Jesus, but then she comes back and says "if you don't believe in Jesus, you will go to hell." Ironic, isn't it? Other students who have a different religion may feel isolated because another religion is imposed on them. Therefore, it will be more difficult for them to do well in this subject. Schools should be neutral in religious beliefs and not impose religion on students.

Another reason to not teach religion at schools is because schools should educate students about things that are useful, such as Chinese, English and Math. RS is not practical because you seldom use it in your daily lives except if you want to be a priest. Also, the way of teaching is not practical because nobody wants to be told how to think and what they should believe in. When non-religious students or students of different faiths resist the beliefs taught in RS, they will not pay attention in class. At the end, schools won't achieve what they want in teaching RS. I believe that parents are



responsible for their kids' religious beliefs. If students want to learn about RS, they can go to Sunday schools or parents can teach their kids at home. I feel more comfortable to learn religious beliefs from people who are closest to me.

Some may argue that teaching religion is important because students can develop positive morals and values. Students can build a moral framework from parents and other subjects. During our class, we don't really use the bible, there's no bible reading or anything interesting. The teacher gives us some worksheets and everyone waits until she checks the answers and just copies them down. That is what RS is about, doing worksheets in class and talking with classmates. Students can't actually learn anything useful in Religious Studies lesson. If the school wants kids to develop a moral framework, kids can read the news paper as there are all sorts of information and knowledge in there. Kids can easily develop positive morals and values through reading the news with guidance from parents.

Well, we can still teach RS in school, but in a different way. Instead of forcing students to believe in Jesus, why not teach religion as a form of knowledge, such as learning about different religion's origin, tradition and rules? I believe that will be a more effective way for students to learn about RS.

# Should schools reduce homework?

BY JOURNALIST MICHELLE LAI (P5)

Do you have too much homework in school? In the United States, Grade 5 students only spend fifty minutes on homework every day. I'm actually a Grade 5 student, but I need to spend one and a half hour on homework every day! How terrible! I believe that schools should reduce homework.

The most important reason to offer less homework is that if students get assigned too much homework, they will not get enough rest and sleep. I have a personal experience to share. Last Thursday, I did my homework until midnight and the next day, I overslept. When I went to school, I felt tired and I couldn't concentrate on what my teacher was saying, so this negatively affects my learning ability. I have also interviewed my classmates and most of them said that they slept so little because of doing homework until late at night.

Another good reason to offer less homework is that students do not have free time for other extracurricular activities, for example reading, sports, and music. Reading can actually help us in writing and we should do more exercise to improve our health. My classmates can't do what they like to do every day because homework is taking up too much time. They can't learn to play the musical instruments and ball games that they enjoy. Besides doing homework, according to the website <http://www.englishclub.com/esl-articles/200003.htm>, reading can also help us learn better. Reading can improve our English. The website says that we can learn vocabulary from reading, and reading can give us good examples for writing.

Some people think that doing more homework is good for us. They believe that doing more homework can help us learn more. What they don't know is if we do our homework late at night, we will not have enough rest and it will be harmful to our health.

So if schools want students to learn more and be healthier, they should offer less homework. They can also follow the schools in the United States where first graders spend 10 minutes on homework every day, and every older grade student spends an extra 10 minutes on homework. Explain to your parents that too much homework is bad for us!

- Jokes & Riddles -

## Why do spiders like the computer so much?

(Contributed by Hannah Szeto)

ANSWER: BECAUSE THEY LIKE TO SURF THE WEB.

# Schools Should Have Shorter Hours

BY JOURNALIST HANNAH SZETO (P3)

**A**re you very tired after school? If you are, would you want school to be shorter? Currently, most schools in Hong Kong have a seven-hour school day. We should have shorter hours for school.

The most important reason is that many students feel tired during the school hours. After four hours of class, I notice that many of my classmates seem to have trouble concentrating. Then their brains just shut down and then their tiredness negatively affects their learning abilities. For example, my friend slept during the lesson and the teacher had to wake her up. So, how do you expect students to learn well while being so tired?

Another good reason is that we can spend more time on other extracurricular

activities such as exercising, sleeping, reading and spending time with our family and relatives. I had an experience. There was one time when I had a lot of homework and I spent nearly all my time after school doing my homework. I felt so bored that I kept on whining. So, can you imagine, I only did my homework and ate dinner. I didn't even get a chance to play with my brother and sister. Oh! How boring!

Some people say that if we stay in school for a long period of time we can learn more. But it is not true! Students do not learn more just because they stay at school longer, instead they get tired and cannot learn effectively. It also affects my ability to do homework after school.

I believe the school day should be six hours. It's about time that we get more sleep!



*The lamb was dancing.*

## Lamb and Ben

BY JOURNALIST MATTHEW FOK (P1)

**O**n the high mountain there lived a little lamb with a friend who was a jackalope called Ben. The lamb liked to dance because his fur was beautiful. At night he got shaved, he was unhappy. The next day Ben came. He said don't be sad it will grow back. You just dance, bounce, and jump around. As long as you are alive you still have your body, feet and your legs.

This story reminds me of the one time when I was sad. Two days ago at Disneyland, my brother used bad language to insult me. I got very angry. I became happy when he gave me back my toy and he said sorry.



*A student falling asleep in class!!!*

## TV is a good influence on kids

BY JOURNALIST DANIEL ALEXANDER MEEROVITSCH (P4)

**W**hy do people watch TV? I believe most people watch it for good reasons such as news, health, knowledge and lifestyle. People learn from watching TV. For me, I learn animals and I find funny shows entertaining. I think TV is a good influence on kids.

The first argument I have is TV provides entertainment if we're tired so we can relax while we are watching TV channels such as cartoon network, Nickelodeon and Disney channel. The second argument is that watching TV can increase bonding with family and friends.

Some people argue that TV is bad for your eyes. But I believe it is not because you will only hurt your eyes when you stare at the TV all day. My solution is take small breaks when you are watching TV, so kids should watch TV while taking short breaks.

In conclusion, I think TV is a good influence on kids.

- Jokes & Riddles -

Robert,  
why have you been  
suspended from school?  
Because the boy next to me  
was smoking!

But if he was smoking,  
why were you suspended??  
Because I was the one  
who set fire to him!

(Contributed by Justin Tam)

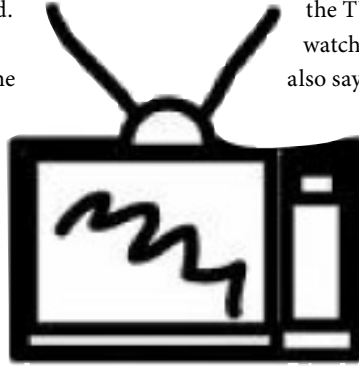
# TV Time for Kids!

BY JOURNALIST STEFANO BOETTO (YEAR 6)

I believe that TV is good for kids. Around the world kids watch TV for 4 hours a day on average. I think 4 hours is good for a kid. I personally watch TV for 6 hours. I learn a lot from TV.

My first argument is that TV is relaxing. For example, I came home from a walk, I was so tired. After watching TV, I was relaxed. I believe that kids are tired of learning all day and deserve some time off.

My second argument is while watching TV, you can spend time with your family, friends and siblings. TV can create strong bonds with others. According to researchers at LSE (London School of Economics), it creates discussions at home and it can get people to think and share thoughts.



My third argument is that TV can be educational. For example, there are some Chinese channels that can help you improve your Chinese. Also, the National Geographic Channel can help you learn about the world.

Some may argue that you might learn bad words on the TV but if you only pick the educational programs to watch then you won't learn any bad languages. People also say that TV might hurt your eyes but there is actually a device that can zoom in and zoom out so you can adjust the distance between your eyes and the screen.

In conclusion I believe that TV is good for kids. Imagine how the world would be like without TV. Everyone would be dull and bored!!

*TV is a great entertainment!*

# It's time to upgrade school facilities!

BY JOURNALIST JUSTIN LAI (F1)

Should schools upgrade their facilities? Do you know some schools are using very old facilities? Just like my school, the science laboratories in my school are using equipments that are 20 years old. I think it is time for schools to improve their facilities.

The most important reason that schools should upgrade their facilities is because more students can improve their learning experiences. In some schools, they only have small playgrounds and small classrooms for learning. For me, my school is located on a slope. I have to walk for approximately ten minutes to get to school every day. It decreases my learning time and makes me tired by the time I get to the classroom. I can't pay attention in class too. Schools should upgrade their facilities to make sure students can learn better. According to Anne Taylor's book "Linking Architecture and Education: Sustainable Design for Learning Environments" (<http://www.unmpress.com/Book.php?id=10347920745058>), she argues persuasively that architects must integrate their design knowledge with an understanding of the developmental needs of learners, while at the same time educators, parents, and students must broaden their awareness of the built, natural, and cultural environment to maximize the learning experience.

Another reason to improve the facilities

is because more students can enjoy the facilities. In my school, there're only four basketball stands which are not enough to be shared among approximately six hundred students. During recesses, I often see more than fifteen students using one basketball stand. If schools buy more basketball stands, more students can enjoy playing basketball during recesses.

There's one more reason why schools should improve their facilities. This is because students can get higher marks in their exams or tests. According to a research report from Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations dated January 2003, there is correlation between the adequacy of a school facility and student behavior and performance. In general, students attending school in newer, better facilities score five to seventeen points higher on standardized tests than those attending in substandard buildings.

Some people believe that upgrading their school facilities is unnecessary. They think that schools don't have enough space to add more facilities. They believe schools don't have enough money to improve their facilities. However,

I believe if schools want students to study well, they can try to get donation from different types of fundraising events. These include walkathon, fun fair and variety shows. They can target the government and alumni for subsidies and donations to buy more land to build the facilities or to buy more equipment.

So should schools upgrade their facilities? Tell your class representative or write a letter to the Student Association. You can also tell your parents to go to PTA meetings and tell the teachers and principal of your needs.

*Do you think there are enough basketball stands for playing?*



# The little lamb lost



## Interview with Daddy

- Have you lost something important before? What did you lose? cell phone
- Where did you lose it? china
- Why did you lose it? the clip opened
- How did you feel? very depressed

Be very Careful! ▽

his fur!!!!

## Journalist Kathy

Not long ago there is a little lamb and he lives on a high mountain. And the little lamb loves to dance because he is very proud of his fur. But one day the people shave his fur. When he looks at the water, he sees he is pink! When he comes out his friends laugh at him. And then know what happens? A jackalope bounces and he says it is very good to have a body, legs and feet. It doesn't matter to have different color like pink, purple or none. So the jackalope teaches the little lamb to bounce and the little lamb is getting his fur back.

This reminds me of a time when I was sad.

Two years ago, my sister used a remote control to hit my leg. Know what happened? She lied and said "IT IS VERY GENTLE." I cried and told my mother and then she cheered me up.

# Do you wonder if your kids watch too much television?

BY JOURNALIST RACHEL NG (P5)

Do you know that kids on average watch 4 hours of television everyday? I think that's too long for children. What would kids do after watching those horror or violent movies? I think television is a bad influence on kids.

Why do I think television is a bad influence on kids? Because it can hurt your eyes, brain, and also your digestion. I was watching television one day program after program, and when there was no more programs to watch, I felt my eyes hurt, and it was a big distraction when I was trying to do my homework later on.

My second argument is if kids watch television, they can learn bad ideas like violence, pranks, and swear words. Like my classmate, she watches television about fourteen hours a week, and she imitates bad things like bullying, swear words and pranks. After a while, she lost all her friends and was not really happy about that.

You may say television helps you relax

and educates you. You can actually achieve the same thing from newspaper, computer or books. Books can even tell you more on the same topic, as television has lots of things to tell about and doesn't stay on a same topic for a long time.

My solution is don't watch too much

television in a row and only choose the educational programs to watch because the horror movies and cartoons might make you think of bad ideas and want to imitate the movie. Do you want your kids to grow up swearing and playing pranks on people? Probably not.



Boy watching television instead of reading.

## Can you find all the words related to Journalism?

Word Search Puzzle

Alliteration

Editorial

Journalist

Printer

Controversial

Graphic Designer

Persuade

Pun

Editor

Headline

Photographer

Writer

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| G | A | R | P | U | L | P | A | S | H | I | J | O | P | I |
| K | R | L | O | R | V | C | Y | P | E | O | S | H | P | V |
| J | V | A | L | T | M | Z | Y | M | A | O | W | E | J | R |
| Q | X | L | P | I | I | O | I | Z | D | S | L | U | R | E |
| V | X | H | U | H | T | D | V | B | L | N | W | F | T | H |
| F | T | U | M | V | I | E | E | N | I | R | R | D | B | P |
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(Contributed by Rachel Ng)

## Watch T.V. to get smart!

BY JOURNALIST JUSTIN TAM (P3)

Do you know that children on average watch 4 hours of TV a day? That's too short for children. I think TV is a good influence on children.

I think TV is a good influence because it entertains me. I also like to relax in front of the television. TV will make me laugh. Every time before exams, our school lets us watch a movie to de-stress.

Another reason that I think TV is good for children is that they learn things from educational channels like Discovery channel and National Geographic channel. If you compare TV with books, you will find out that you will learn things faster than reading. Reading will take a long time. TV has a lot more selections than books.

People will argue that TV is bad for your eyes. I believe that we can watch shorter intervals. Therefore, I believe that children should watch more TV because they learn more things such as documentaries and educational programs. TV can be good influence on kids as long as small children watch with adults.



# It's Time to Improve School Facilities!

BY JOURNALIST VICKY FONG (P5)

**D**o you know that lockers in my school are not lockable?

Are you afraid that other students may steal stuff from your locker? With a gentle press, anyone could open your locker! There's also another problem, only my classroom out of the whole school of 34 classrooms has the interactive whiteboards.

I don't think it's fair! I believe that there are very important reasons schools should improve their facilities.

The first argument is that the school should protect student properties. At school, students should always feel safe. If some students just keep on stealing, sooner or later, our lockers will be empty! According to our secondary school students, they have lockable lockers. Most primary school students would be jealous to hear that. If schools upgrade the lockers, students can put their textbooks or other things inside without losing them.

The second argument is that more students can enjoy the facilities. Have you ever heard of interactive whiteboards? I have, but most students in my school may not have even heard of it! That is because only my classroom has the interactive whiteboard! "It's not fair!" that's what everyone says. If schools can improve the facilities for all classrooms, students can have equal opportunities to better learning.

The last argument is that students would also have better performance in school. According to the research report by Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations dated 2003, studies conducted over the past three decades have found a statistically significant relationship between the condition of a school, classroom, and student achievement. Students attending schools with newer and better facilities score five to seventeen points higher on standardized tests than those attending in substandard buildings. If schools change the facilities, students would have better performance and behavior too!

The schools may disagree. They may think that it's too troublesome doing renovations and it will take a long period of time and a lot of money. However, I think schools can overcome these issues by organizing a funfair or maybe even a bazaar. The school



*We need lockable lockers!*



*Interactive whiteboards - do they look familiar?*

can also raise money by asking parents and alumni for donations too! It is far more important for the school to be safer and students can have an equal learning opportunity.

# The lamb and the jackalope

BY JOURNALIST MICHAEL MA (P1)

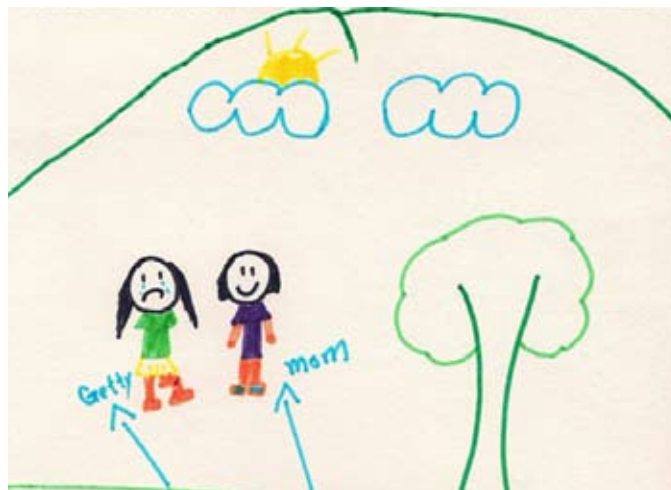
**N**ot long ago, there is a lamb. He lives on high mountain. He likes to dance because he has his beautiful fur. One day the lamb loses his fur. He is sad and the other animals laugh at him. The jackalope says, "You still have your feet and body so you can still dance." The lamb learns he can still dance with no fur.

# How to be happy when you are sad?

BY JOURNALIST GETTY LI (P1)

**N**ot long ago, there is a lamb called Little Lamb. He lives on a high mountain and he likes to dance. He has a lot of white fur and he is proud of his fur. One day, a car comes and takes the lamb away. The lamb has no more fur and he is sad. Because he does not have his beautiful fur, the lamb stops dancing. One day a jackalope hops to the lamb and says, "You still have your body and feet, so you can still dance. If you jump you can have more fur." The lamb learns to be happy with what he has.

This stories reminds me of a time when I was sad. This past summer I was in Canada at my grandfather's house. My brother and I ran and I fell on the tiles. My knees were bleeding. My mom helped me shower and I became happy again.



*My mom helped me to clean my knees.*

- Jokes & Riddles -

Somebody and Nobody go for a walk.  
Nobody falls in the sea  
then Somebody calls the police  
then he says nobody falls in the sea.

(Contributed by Hugo Chan)

# Kids are putting themselves in danger by watching too much TV

BY JOURNALIST JOANNE FU (P3)

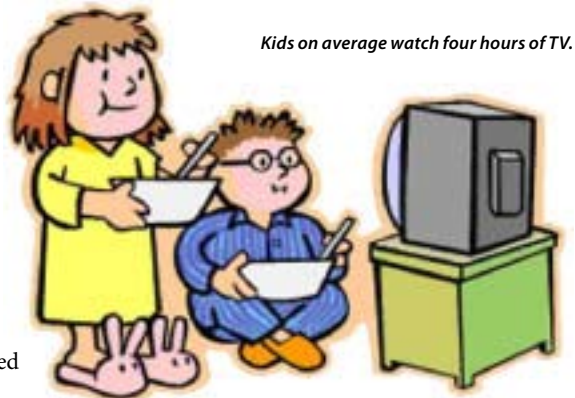
**D**o you know that children on average watch four hours of TV a day? That's too long for children. I think TV is a bad influence on kids.

The first argument is because it hurts your eyes, brain and digestion. Once I was watching TV for six hours non-stop. When all the programs finished, my eyes hurt a lot. It hurts your brain because when I was trying to do my homework afterwards, I was thinking of the movie so it was very distracting. It also hurts your digestion system because if you sit in front of the TV all day you will get very, very fat!

The second argument is because you can learn bad ideas from TV. Once my friend was watching TV and she learnt bad language. She used it at school on my friends and she

got scolded by my teacher. So I believe that young children should be protected from TV because they cannot control what they watch.

Some may argue that TV is a good influence on kids because TV can entertain. I believe TV is only good when they watch the suitable ones and only when parents are with them or parents can choose what they should watch.



# The lamb and the jackalope

BY JOURNALIST MAVIS FU (P1)

**O**nce upon a time there was a lamb called Fluffy. Fluffy lived on a high mountain. One day it was raining, after it stopped raining a person cut off Fluffy's fur. He started crying and met a jackalope. "Don't cry" said the jackalope. The jackalope helped the lamb to dance. The lamb was happy again. The lamb learned being pink is okay. As long as you are alive, you still have your body, your feet and legs to dance.

This story reminds me of the one time when I was sad. Today my brother fights with me because my brother doesn't let me play games. I become very sad. My brother let me play games again and I become happy again. I am also happy when my brother plays with me.

# Do you want to improve your schools' facilities?

BY JOURNALIST LORAIN KUK (P4)

**D**o you want to improve your schools' facilities? For me, I want to improve my school's library. Right now, my school has 960 students but my school library only has 20 seats. Some of the students have to stand up to read books. Some students' test results are poor because they can't go to the small library to read. I think schools should improve their facilities.

The first argument schools should improve their facilities is because it can improve the students' learning experience. For example, our school classroom has a big whiteboard, but there aren't enough markers for the teachers. They always send some students to the classrooms next door to borrow the markers. This will affect those students' learning experience because they will miss what the teachers say in class.

The second argument schools must improve their facilities is because more students can enjoy the facilities. For example, our school playground is too small so teachers always just allow P.1 – P.3 students to play in the playground. All the P.4 – P.6 students can only stay in their

classrooms to do their own things. If we can have more facilities in our school's playground, all the students can play and we can make more friends from other classes.

Some people think that improving school's facilities can cost a lot of money. I

think school's students can help by asking their parents for donation. Tell your parents to go to PTA meetings and tell the teachers we must improve the schools' facilities.

*This library is really big, but some schools' libraries are small like matchboxes.*



# Biking for a Cleaner City

BY JOURNALIST GERRY LI (G8)

Global warming has been a daily topic. While thinking of which hybrid car to buy to help the environment, why not help yourself to a bicycle? Hong Kong's air pollution index has reached a record high according to the Environment Protection Department. The high index is warning us that what we have been doing is affecting the planet. Last year, the government has laid out a new policy of putting converters at the back of your car. That helped a bit but I do think we could do more about saving the environment. I suggest a new policy of encouraging people to ride bicycles to school and work.

According to the government, there are 280 cars for every kilometer of road. Every single one of these cars emits carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. 280 cars in each kilometer is a big number. People are covering their noses and mouths when they go pass Causeway Bay and Mong Kok. It is time to change our lifestyles. Besides the things that the government tells us to do, we should also change our mode of transportation. Hong Kong has all types of vehicles, what should we change to? Yes, Hong Kong is full of modern vehicles and they all emit greenhouse gases. What we need to change to is a bicycle - the two-hundred-year-old bicycle. Bicycles do not emit greenhouse gases, they are cheap compared to cars and are convenient. According to a New York Times article (<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/commuter-cycling-is-soaring-city-says/>), New York has been adding 140 miles of bicycle lanes since 2007, and since then there has been an obvious increase of cyclists. "This growth is real," said Wiley Norvell, a spokesman for Transportation Alternatives, the leading advocacy group for cyclists and pedestrians in New York City. "It's born out by what I see on the streets every day, and we're reaping the rewards from the city's investment in bicycling over the last several years. More and better-designed bike lanes are producing more cyclists and more first-time cyclists." If New York succeeded in introducing cycling, why can't Hong Kong? The reason why New York succeeded in introducing cycling is because they added bicycle lanes that reached everywhere. At a May 2009 conference, a Civil Engineering and Development Department official

explained the government's plan on cycle track network in the New Territories to increase the recreational value. Transport Department representative shared his view on recent trends of bicycle accidents in Hong Kong referring to accident statistics and their effort in promoting bicycling safety through education and publicity. Other speakers pointed out that the government sees cycling as a recreational activity instead of a regular transport mode. In Hong Kong, there are restrictions on cycling at parks, on roads and at other locations. To cyclists, that is very upsetting. Should the government add more bicycle lanes to roads so that no matter where we cycle we will still be safe?

"Bicycles are so inconvenient! They are too small to carry goods around!" "They are tiring and uncomfortable when you ride them for too long." These may be your complaints. But not anymore! In this decade, people have been inventing new bicycles. There are bicycles that use electricity that are faster and more comfortable. Bicycles nowadays can also carry cargos as they have very long tails that allow you to put a few boxes on them. It is also possible to have an electrifying cargo bike that allows you to carry the cargos in a much easier way. I also believe that bicycles are much cheaper than cars.

Global warming has been affecting us and cars and factories are a few of the main causes. We could not change the factories, but we could replace cars with bicycles. The more effort people make, the more the air will change. Improving the air quality is up to you and me.

*People riding bikes are very environmental friendly.*



## My marvelous cream pasta

BY JOURNALIST JENNY ZHANG (P1)

At high mountains, not long ago, there lived a lamb called Dum. Dum has sparkling fur and he is proud of it. One day, Dum lost his fur and he stopped dancing. One day, Naughty the jackalope came to find Dum and Naughty talked to him. Naughty said it does not matter what color he is. Dum still has a body and feet. Dum learnt to be happy with what he has. This story reminds me of the one time when I was sad. Two months ago, my brother pinched me. Every time he was at Hong Kong we get into fights. I will be happy again when I eat cream pasta.

## Pupu and Crazy

BY JOURNALIST EDWIN TAY (P1)

On a high mountain plain not long ago, there lived a lamb named Crazy. Crazy lived on a high mountain plain. One day, Crazy had his fur shaved off and he was very sad. A jackalope named Pupu came and said it doesn't matter if you're pink. It only matters that you have your head, your body, and your feet. And then Crazy realized that it doesn't matter that you are pink and he became happy again and he jumped up again.

This story reminds me of the one time when I was angry. I had a super fight with my super crazy sister. Sometimes when I am happy I think of my favourite things like sideswipe, hotrol, goop, bumble bee and brainstorm.

- Jokes & Riddles -

What kind of shoes do banana peels make?

(Contributed by Max Lau)

ANSWERS: SLIPPERS

# Time to upgrade schools' facilities

BY JOURNALIST MAX LAU (P4)

**D**o you know that some schools have to share one computer among 140 students? Do you know that when we work on the computer, some are quite fast and some are quite slow? Do you know that the slow computers need half an hour to boot up? I think it is time to improve our facilities.

The most important reason to upgrade school's facilities is that it can improve the students' learning experiences. Last year, our teacher asked us to do a keynote presentation in an hour but some of our students spent an hour waiting for the computer to boot up. One of my classmates said that the computers often couldn't search the internet properly. Our school should upgrade its facilities such that students can optimize their time to learn more things.

Another reason the school needs to improve the facilities is

because students can enjoy more types of sports. For example, during P.E. class, our class sometimes has to go to the school's primary gymnasium. I think that it is a little bit too small for activities that require a lot of space, such as baseball, football or basketball. If we get a bigger gym, students can play more types of sports.

Some may argue that it will take a long time to improve the facilities. I believe that we can either improve the computers or the gym first. Then we don't need to close

down the facilities all at once and we can still use some of our facilities. In conclusion, we can upgrade by phase. We all should call a meeting with the principal or send letters to all students' parents and teachers. It is about time to act!



*An old computer that has trouble booting up.*

# The jackalope and the lamb

BY JOURNALIST YI YING QUAH (P1)

**O**n a high mountain there was a beautiful lamb. One day the lamb lost his fur. He was very sad.

One day he saw a jackalope. The jackalope taught the lamb how to dance. The lamb was happy that his fur was back. The lamb was very very very happy that he started jumping up and down.

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