

LEAP POST

VOLUME 6 | AUGUST 2010

www.leap-studio.com

From the Editor-in-Chief



Summer has finally come to a close. This edition of Leap Post is a collection of work from the fun-filled and meaningful activities we have had this summer, reporting on classes held throughout the months of July and August. This summer, Leap Studio hosted six different modules over a span of two months.

In the first module *Meet the Product Designer*, students explored the role and function of design in everyday life. Alongside Susanna Wong, a toy designer from Mattel, students experienced the design process by researching and conceptualizing ideas, subsequently building their own lamps.

Week two's module *Meet Dialogue in the Dark* (DiD) was co-designed with the social enterprise to inspire students to empathize with people with disabilities. Students embarked on an interactive simulation that allows sighted people to experience what it is like to be blind. The final output required students to put their new knowledge to good use by generating ideas of products or services that could help and empower disabled people.

In week three, we headed over to Shek Kip Mei and worked with Changing Young Lives Foundation (CYLF), a charity for underprivileged children in Hong Kong. Students learned about the vicious cycle of poverty and through interactive simulations experienced how it feels to be overworked and underpaid. Students then had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with children from CYLF on a bookmark design campaign.



The following week, students uncovered the busy streets of Causeway Bay to capture the "perfect shot". Our *Meet the Photographer* module gave students a basic background on the genres of photography and famous photographers. Joyce Yung, a professional photographer, shared with students a more technical education on photography. For the final output, students had a fun time creating lively and colorful photo collages on mood boards.

In week five's *Meet the Magician* module, students explored different effects of magic with professional magician Stuart Palm. Each student selected a trick to learn, create a script for, master and perform. The performance was held at Princess Margaret Hospital where *Playright* arranged for our students to perform their magic show through interactive TV to sick children in their wards.

Our final module of the summer *Meet the Dog Trainer* saw us working hand-in-hand with Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR) where our students spent a fun-filled morning playing and interacting with HKDR puppies at Whiskers 'n' Paws. Mark Curran, HKDR's professional dog trainer, educated our students about proper pet care and responsible pet ownership. The final output of the module was for the students to design doggie shirts for the puppies they were paired with at the outing.

So go on, turn the page and see for yourself what the kids have to say about their summer at LEAP!



We are delighted to share with you that our summer module "Meet the Magician" was featured on Saturday night ATV World News (Aug 14). In this module, students learnt magic tricks from a professional magician Stuart Palm (www.stuartpalm.com). They then wrote their own scripts and finally staged a performance for sick children at Princess Margaret Hospital through the Playright channel.

Special acknowledgement to our students Max Lau, Giselle Pe, John Zhang, Abraham Chan, Sean Meng, Jeffery Zhang, Ian Chu, Colette Wong, Matthew Tam, Allie Chu, Getty Li, Michael Ma, Michelle Ma, and Lauren Lam for their interviews and awesome performance that day.

A clip of the magic show presented by ATV is accessible at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3UK-0Fs3dc> (last 3 minutes).

Return to LEAP STUDIO

Meet the Product Designer

In this module, students explored the role and function of design in everyday lives and examined the importance of good design. The class reinforced classroom learning through meeting with a professional toy designer from Mattel, who shared her design values and discussed the significance of socially responsible design. Alongside the designer, students explored and experienced the design process of a lamp, from researching and conceptualizing ideas to discussing and refining initial concepts, building the product, solving engineering challenges and presenting the product in a final critique.

STEP 1: Design Brief



STEP 3: Design Specifications



STEP 2: Conceptualization



The Dangling Crystals

BY JOURNALIST TIFFANY ZHANG (G5, ISF)

The Dangling Crystals was inspired by a dangling mother-of-pearl pendant light at my house. I wanted to create a light that I could put by my bed and turn it on when I sleep. So I wanted the light to shine out softly and beautifully. I thought the dangling crystals would be perfect, so I decided to build it.

Before I started building my lamp, my teacher showed me all the available materials. After confirming the materials, I drew a perspective drawing. The perspective drawing was very helpful, as it helped me create a clearer image of my lamp in my mind. I was very excited to get started. After meeting with the product designer, I learnt that being a designer takes a lot of patience and persistence. I faced some challenges when I needed to make the dangling crystals, as it was quite hard to put them in the right spots. I have learnt that every single product we use in our daily lives must have required a lot of effort, patience and time. So I now appreciate product designers and the work they do.

My design has three main criterion of good design. First, it is sustainable because the cardboard is bio-degradable, and so is the metallic paper. Second, my design is ergonomic because it is not heavy or big so we can move it around. Moreover, the shade is detachable so you can put it on different bases. Third, my design is aesthetic because I chose complementary colours. Also, the metallic paper was very shiny, especially when the lights were on.

The Allianz Dome

BY JOURNALIST WILLIS TSAI (G5, ISF)

The Allianz Dome was inspired by a football stadium in Munich. I saw it in a football magazine and thought the stadium was very cool, so I wanted to make a football lamp out of it. I wanted to finish the lamp and make it look nice. I made this lamp for people who like football, and want to decorate their house in football themes.

While working on The Allianz Dome, I researched on how the stadium looked like, made sketches and spent time looking for the right material. After consulting with the product designer on the perspective drawing and ideas, I started building the lamp. I thought all of the other steps were easy, but the production step was very hard. In the end, the product designer gave me a good idea and told me to use a hexagon and pentagon pattern for the outside. I used black to make the hexagon and left blank spaces for the pentagons. I still used a lot of effort.

My design addresses three main criteria of good design. It is aesthetic because I used shiny black cardboard instead of white so my lamp would be cool. The lamp is ergonomic because you just have to flip the switch so it will light up. It is very easy to use. The lamp is also functional because it serves the purpose of providing light.



My Lamp

BY JOURNALIST ANDREA WONG (Y7, Kennedy School)

My lamp was inspired by different types of leaves. I wanted to create a bedside lamp with the leaf-shaped holes, I can see leaves at night when I turn on the switch. I chose green as the background color, because it is my favorite color.

To build my lamp, I made a three dimensional drawing of the lamp. I researched about different types of leaves and chose some to draw. After I spent some time thinking I decided on my construction material and got my measurements to start building my lamp. I drew the shapes first, but some leaves were too small and detailed. To make it easier to cut I changed them to bigger and easier shapes. After cutting the leaves, I stuck the fabric on the back of the lamp, which would allow the light to shine through. Soon my leaf designed lamp was done.

My design is functional because I can read or work on my homework even when it is dark. I can also save more energy by using the lamp, which only has one light bulb, than the main room light which has four light bulbs. My lamp is ergonomic because it is simple. You only need to flick the switch to turn on the light, and so it is not too complicated. Lastly, my lamp is aesthetic because I drew some leaf patterns to decorate the cardboard and I also used green as the main color, which is comfortable and natural.

Mark's Lamp

BY JOURNALIST MARK PANG (G3, HKIS)

The design of Mark's Lamp was inspired by a picture on the computer. I wanted to create a bedside lamp for my room. The size of my lamp is small because it must fit on my bedside shelf.

Before starting on the actual construction of my lampshade, I made a perspective drawing. Then, I got the materials and started making the lamp. It was kind of easy and it only took me two days. While I was making my lamp, I had the help of my teachers. Production was my favorite part of the experience because I like constructing and building things. Overall, I did not face any challenges.

My lamp addresses three of the five criterion of good design. It is functional because the lampshade serves a purpose of being a bedside lamp for my room. It will help me see at night, and yet it also lets me sleep because it is not too bright. My lamp is also sustainable because it can be recycled because it is made out of paper and paper can be reused. My lamp is also ergonomic because it is easy to use. All you have to do is flick the switch to turn it on and off.

The Colour Rectangle

BY JOURNALIST SAMANTHA WONG
(Y7, Kennedy School)

The Colour Rectangle was inspired by my favourite colours: pink, blue and purple. It's a lamp for my room. I want this lamp to be beside my bed so when I don't want the light to be too bright I can always turn on this lamp.

At first, I thought of a lamp that has my favourite colours. Then I thought of what materials I need to make a lamp I want. After that, I started building my lamp. On Wednesday, I did design critique with a project designer. The designer suggested me to use two cardboards instead of one for the base. I did not face a lot of challenges, but it was very hard to put the top and the bottom with the whole thing. I learned a lot of different ways to make the lamp to look nicer with different materials.

The three criterion of my design are functional, ergonomic and aesthetic. It is functional because when I need the light to be not as bright as moonlight, I can turn this lamp on. It is ergonomic because you only need to press the big and the only button. It is aesthetic because the design of the lamp is only made out of cardboards so it's not too complicated. Also, the beads are wrapped around the light so it looks very nice and colourful.

Meet Dialogue in the Dark

Co-designed with Dialogue in the Dark (DiD), this module led students in discussion of the various issues, opportunities and challenges facing disabled people in our society. They were then given the opportunity to “learn through encounter” by experiencing a journey in the dark at DiD premises, exploring the city through sounds, smells and texture, followed by a sharing session with visually impaired facilitators to learn about their personal stories and how they deal with daily life challenges. The final piece of output reflected students’ understanding of disability in a social context through generating ideas on products and services that can help and empower visually impaired persons (VIPs). On a personal level, students learned to appreciate what they have (such as eyesight) and empathize with people with disabilities through eliminating prejudices and stereotypes.



VIP Food Journalists

BY JOURNALIST PENNEY CHU (F1, Marymount Secondary School)

This service provides jobs for visually impaired people to be food journalists. The VIPs are the beneficiaries of this invention. This service is meant to address employment problems because job opportunities for VIPs are scarce and this job can give them more options. This can also promote social integration since the VIPs will have to work with sighted people. I have learnt that VIPs are often discriminated by sighted people. This invention can also help sighted people and VIPs to cooperate with each other.

The VIP will go to a restaurant accompanied by a sighted or slightly visually impaired person. The VIP is the food journalist, and the sighted or slightly visually impaired person will be the cameraman and he/she will have to take care of the VIP. The VIP tastes samples of the food and the cameraman takes photos of the sample. The VIP then returns to the magazine company and writes comments or critiques about the food. The VIPs have to be educated, while the cameraman has to have good photography skills and he/she has to be good-tempered, kind and helpful, since she/he has to take care of the VIP.

When I first knew that I would be walking in the dark, I thought it was nothing. I thought that the darkness will be like at night. I never thought it would be complete darkness. Before I went in, I never thought of cooperating with others. We could just walk in and walk out on our own. But after the tour, I learnt that cooperating with others is very important. So I added a cameraman to my service so they can cooperate to write a good critique on the food.

I will advertise my service in newspapers and magazines. Employees will earn \$15000 monthly salary. If interested, please call 1234-5678.

Dillon's Shoes

BY JOURNALIST DILLON PANG (G5, HKIS)

My innovative invention is called Dillon's Shoes. The beneficiaries of this invention are VIPs. It addresses the challenge of mobility and orientation faced by VIPs. It is a pair of shoes that brings VIPs wherever they want to go. I was inspired by the challenges that VIPs face when they move around.

My product looks like a pair of shoes with wheels on the bottom. VIPs say where they want to go and the shoes use the GPS system to bring the VIP to where he wants to go. The first feature is that it has wheels. The second feature is the GPS system. The last feature is that it only recognizes the VIP's voice. It addresses the challenge of mobility because it brings visually impaired people to places. The shoes come in any color and have 2 velcro straps.

Yesterday at Dialogue in the Dark, Daniel, my tour guide, opened the door and I went with my cane into the dark room. Now that I know what it feels like to be blind, I empathize with the VIPs because now I understand the challenges they face with mobility.

I will sell my product in a shoe shop or in DiD. It will cost HK\$300. I hope this product is useful for VIPs.

Guide Dog Training and Buying

BY JOURNALIST SAM LIEM (G6, Kiangsu Chekiang Primary School)

My service is called Guide Dog Training and Buying Service. The beneficiaries of the service are VIPs. The service is meant to address the orientation and mobility challenge and the employment challenge faced by VIPs. Nothing inspired me to invent this, it just turns out that Hong Kong doesn't have any places to train or buy a guide dog.

The service has the following features. First, a visually impaired customer can buy a guide dog from this pet shop run by other VIPs. Second, unlike other places (I am not 100 percent sure), VIPs can learn to train their own dogs to be a guide dog. Third, also unlike other places, the service is able to train every dog breed in the world but the breed Chihuahua. This is because they are too small and get tired quickly. The service addresses the orientation and mobility challenge that the VIPs face by providing them with well-trained guide dogs. It also gives VIPs employment opportunities to be either workers at the shop OR trainers for the dogs.

When we were done with the dialogue in the dark tour and were introducing our products to Julian (a VIP), he said my service was “a very useful service”. This is because there aren't many places in Hong Kong like this.

I will start my service in Hong Kong, then slowly expand it around the world. The price of training your dog to be a guide dog is \$999. The price for buying a guide dog is \$1499.

A Community Centre for VIPs

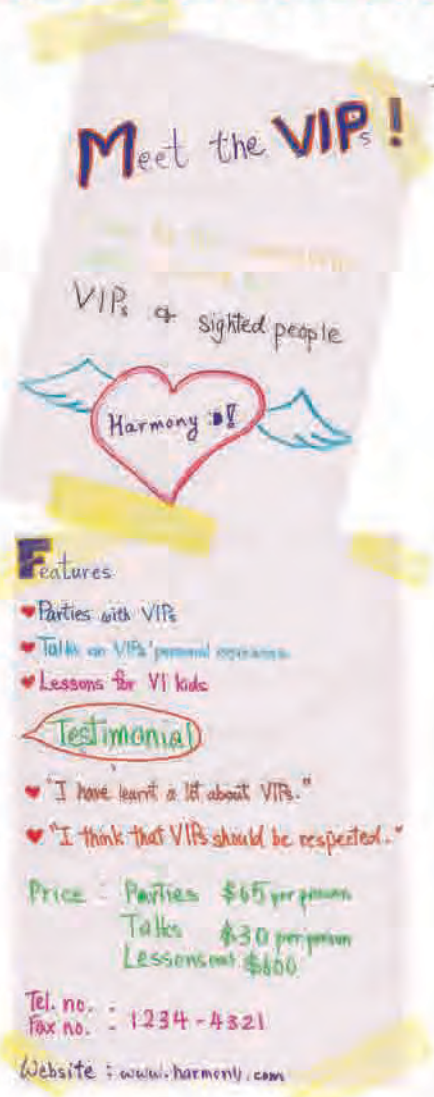
BY JOURNALIST NATALIE WARNE (F1, Marymount Secondary School)

My service is a community centre operated by both VIPs and sighted people. This centre doesn't only provide employment opportunities for the VIPs, but also bridges the gap between the VIPs and sighted people. The beneficiaries are VIPs and sighted people because VIPs can be offered respectable jobs and will not be discriminated, while sighted people can learn more about VIPs and make friends with them. As I have learnt about how VIPs are discriminated and how they hope to be treated equally, I created this platform for VIPs and sighted people to communicate and cooperate. Through this centre, sighted people can understand the life of the VIPs and I hope that sighted people will not hold prejudice against VIPs again.

The workers of this centre are both VIPs and sighted people, who are kind, friendly and cheerful. They know how to speak in Cantonese, English and even Mandarin and other languages. Although some are visually impaired and some are not, they all love to help others and treat VIPs as normal people. These people together hold many activities for other VIPs and sighted people. Firstly, parties are held regularly. These are opportunities for sighted people to meet and understand more about VIPs. Secondly, talks are held by VIPs. The VIPs share their personal experience with sighted people. This allows sighted people to learn more about the challenges faced by VIPs and understand that though they can't see, they still can be independent and earn a living. Lastly, lessons taught by VIPs and sighted people are held every day for visually impaired kids. These lessons train public speaking, Braille reading and music appreciation. It benefits the kids because they can develop their talents and can find jobs more easily in the future.

Before I went to Dialogue in the Dark, I didn't know what activities should be held in the centre. But after experiencing the dark tour, I knew that cooperating with each other is very important. Also, the best way to discourage sighted people from discriminating VIPs is to let them cooperate and understand them. So, I decided that the activities should be parties, talks and training classes. These are all chances for VIPs and sighted people to communicate and cooperate.

The charges of the activities are all different. For parties, it costs \$65 per person. For talks, it is \$30 per person. As for the lessons, there are 4 lessons per week and it costs \$600. The address of the community centre is 56 Harmony Road. If you would like to contact us, please call or fax us or browse our website www.harmony.com. Our telephone and fax number is 1234-4321. All the information of our centre and lessons are uploaded on the website. Application forms of our lessons can be downloaded from our website and faxed back to us.



Taste Testers at Coca-Cola Company

BY JOURNALIST IAN CHU (G5, ISF)

In the last few classes, I found out there are very limited jobs for VIPs in Hong Kong. This is why I wanted to start another job for VIPs. The job is for them to be taste testers at Coca-Cola Company.

This service is meant to address the lack of employment opportunities faced by the visually impaired. The beneficiaries of this service are the VIPs. They will be taste testers of all the new products from Coca-Cola Company. Since the VIPs' senses of taste are sharper than sighted people, they can easily differentiate which ones are better. Because of this, Coca-Cola Company can sell the best flavors to consumers. Before starting work, every VIP must go through a series of training programs. During the training programs, they will be taught to identify if the drink they taste is coke or something else. Their salary each month is HK\$9,500 and a bonus will be paid to VIPs to hire guide dogs and maybe a helper to help them as well.

The DiD experience confirmed that my service is effective because after talking to Julian, a VIP, he said my idea was great and that he wished it would happen in the future. He validated my concept. From the DiD experience, I learned more about VIPs and it helped bridge the gap between me and VIPs.

My service is to help VIPs connect with Coca-Cola Company. I do not plan to charge the VIPs anything. If you want to know more information about my service, you can also visit my website www.connectingVIP.com.

A Supercar for VIPs

BY JOURNALIST RYAN AU (G3, ISF)

My product is a supercar made in Hong Kong. It's made especially for VIPs. The beneficiaries of my product are VIPs. The challenge my supercar addresses is orientation and mobility because I want to help the VIPs to move around. The reason that inspired me to come up with this supercar was that I wanted to help the VIPs. It can stop discrimination because people laugh at VIP since they think they look very bad and they are not important.

My supercar comes in many colors – blue, red, black, yellow and many more. The supercar is environmentally friendly! Then come in the functions. Firstly if a car is approaching the supercar, the supercar will make a beeping sound. Secondly, if a car is about to bump the supercar, the supercar will go on auto mode and will drive to a safe place. Lastly, there is speaking GPS in the supercar, you just have to press the destination button in Braille and it will bring you to where you want to go. The challenge that this supercar is meant to address is safety.

After my DiD trip, I learned that safety is very important to the visually impaired. That's why I added the function. If a car is about to bump the supercar, the supercar will drive to a safe place. When walking through the dark, I felt what it was like to be visually impaired. I was guided by a tour guide so it was easier for me to navigate, but I know it would be very hard for a VIP. This further encouraged me to help the blind people move around.

I will sell my product in a shop next to the DiD so it would be convenient for VIPs. I would charge my supercar HK\$850,000 (and can only be bought by the visually impaired). There will be a 20% discount for the first two months. That means, the car's price will cost HK\$680,000. If you want to buy it, just call 2818 6901 for more details. However, if you can prove that you have financial need, I can offer a discount.

Magnifying Eyeglasses

BY JOURNALIST ANDRE KI (G4, DBSPD)

Do you think you can see something very clearly in a distance if you are legally blind? If you want to see very clearly, I can introduce you to my innovative invention. They are the magnifying eyeglasses. You can see something very far away if you wear the magnifying eyeglasses. The beneficiaries are some visually impaired people. This invention addresses the challenges of daily life skills and mobility faced by the VIPs.

It addresses the challenges of daily life skills because they can see the traffic lights and see if there are any cars coming. It also addresses the challenges of mobility because you can see where the walls are. I was inspired to make this invention because I saw some legally blind people walking on the street and they had to work very hard to look at something very closely.

This invention is very useful because firstly you can magnify things. Secondly, it can tell you daily temperature and humidity, the date, time and the direction you are going in if you press the button in the middle of the eyeglasses. There are also two buttons for you to turn on. If you turn on the left button, you will be able to see clearly things that are far away. If you turn on the right button, you can zoom in what you are looking.

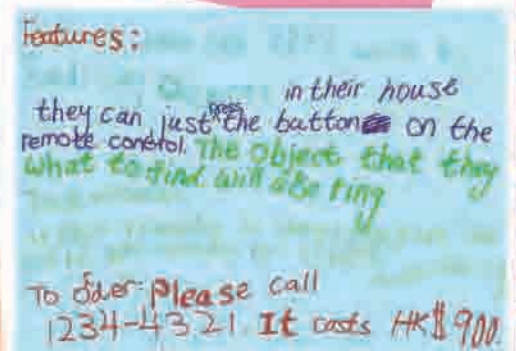
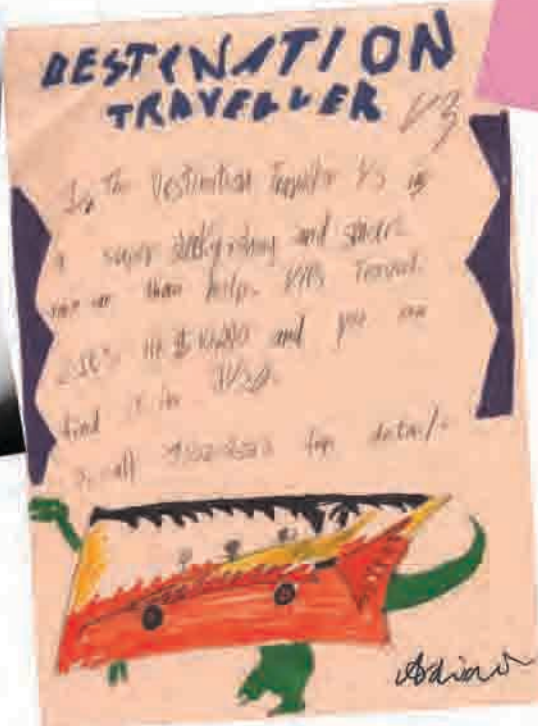
Dialogue in the Dark changed the way I design my product because the experience bridged the gap between blind people and me. So I changed one of the features and made it so that it can talk. At first, I put the temperature, humidity, time, direction and date on the screen. Why? Because I saw that the screens of visually impaired people's eyeglasses are black. But since they can't see, I improved on the feature so that it can talk.

If you want to buy this item, you can go to space to buy it or call 8765-4321. If you go to space to buy it, it costs \$25,000. If you call, we will deliver it to you from space. It will cost \$40,000. We will build a house in space and let a smart guy use a small spaceship to send it to you. It only takes 501 seconds to come to Earth. I hope you will like my invention.



Destination Traveller

BY JOURNALIST ADRIAN HUI (P1, SIS)



BOND.com

BY JOURNALIST CAROL CHAN (G8, ISF)

Remote in the Dark

BY JOURNALIST JOANNE FU (P3, SIS)

Meet Changing Young Lives

Co-designed with Changing Young Lives Foundation (CYL), this module aimed to raise students' awareness of poverty in Hong Kong and the world, with a focus on child poverty. Students had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with a group of underprivileged children from the CYL center in Shek Kip Mei on a bookmark design campaign, based on themes learnt in class (dream, thankfulness, sharing and balance). The bookmarks will be sold in future fundraising events for CYL. The older students were involved with planning and designing promotional material on the 2011 Red Packet Campaign after interviewing Ms. Marcia Aw, Executive Director of CYL, and her team on the objective of the campaign and the mission of CYL. Students learned to collaborate and communicate effectively with teammates of different backgrounds, but most important of all, were empowered by their own positive actions to help change the lives of less privileged children.

Promotional Material for CYL

BY JOURNALISTS CAROL CHAN (G8, ISF) & KAREN SIU (G8, ISF)

The Centre...

- Give opportunities for underprivileged families to develop their skills for the next ahead.
- Provide a home for many youths who left their families in life when issues at family and money come into their way.
- Provide a place where underprivileged children enjoy their time with professional education, classrooms and recreation facilities.
- It is a place where children find their dreams come true.

The Red Packet Campaign

Youngsters Development Programs

Success Story 3

6.7 year old child had his second family when his father left and abused him and his mother. Finally his mother could not stand it anymore and called the police who came and arrested his father. This situation caused the young boy to lose his father and trust in others.

How did Changing Young Lives help him?

How does it work?
Children can donate part of their Red Packet money received during Chinese New Year.

It is NOT about the amount, it is the HEART and THOUGHTS that count!

CYL Red Packet Campaign E-Flyer

BY JOURNALIST STEPHANIE SHUM (G6, SIS)

How does it work?
Children can donate part of their Red Packet money received during Chinese New Year.

It is NOT about the amount, it is the HEART and THOUGHTS that count!

For details, please visit the website:
<http://www.changingyounglives.org.hk/>
Address: Units 1-2, G/F, Block 12, Pak Tin Estate, Kowloon
Phone: +852 2514 0505

CYL has chosen to use the full set of promotional material designed by our students Carol Chan, Karen Siu and Stephanie Shum for their 2011 Red Packet Campaign. The flyer has been distributed to students at various schools (e.g. Canadian International School) and the powerpoint will be shown during on-site presentations for schools and corporations.

A Visit to Changing Young Lives

BY JOURNALIST HEISEN LI (P4, DBSPD)

Wednesday was a memorable day for me because my classmates and I went to an organization called "Changing Young Lives" to design bookmarks and play with the children who live in poverty.

Before the event, I learnt that the children live in poverty due to lack of basic needs, and that we can sponsor or donate money to the children in poverty. We sketched the design of the bookmark and came up with some questions to interview them. I felt very excited the night before the field trip.

When we arrived at Changing Young Lives, we were introduced to our buddy. My buddy's name was Jason Ho. We transferred our sketches to the strip of paper that we were given. We made some pizzas. The toppings we used consisted of pineapples, sausages, mushrooms and tomato sauce. While we were waiting for the pizzas to be baked, we played UNO cards happily. I expected the center's conditions to be poor but actually the center was cleaner than I had thought, with a lot of facilities like baking room. I would like to go to Changing Young Lives to visit Jason again.

Arion Tai & Kitty Kwong

BY JOURNALIST ARION TAI (Y1, CIS)

My name is Arion Tai. I am six years old and I am from Hong Kong. There are five people in my family: my mom, my dad, my little brother and my twin brother. I go to CIS and I am in Grade two. My favorite subject at school is P.E. because I can run around and play football. My hobby is playing basketball with my dad. I am thankful for my little brother. My greatest dream is to be a fireman.



My buddy's name is Kitty Kwong. I met her at Changing Young Lives. Kitty is eight years old. Kitty is from Hong Kong. Kitty's family has four people: her mom, her brother Tommy, her dad and her. She goes to Pak Tin School. Kitty is in 3rd grade. Kitty's favorite subject at school is English. Kitty likes to paint and draw. When Kitty grows up, she wants to be a painter.

Elliana Ho & Jojo Cheung

BY JOURNALIST ELLIANA HO (K3, Braemar Hill)

My buddy's name is Jojo Cheung. Jojo is eight years old. She is from Hong Kong. Jojo has 5 people in her family. Her favorite subject is Chinese because there are lots of games. Her hobby is running and her dream is to become an artist.



Aya Lewis & Mimi Ng

BY JOURNALIST AYA LEWIS (Y2, CIS)

My name is Aya Lewis and I am six years old and I am from the United States. I have a little brother named Truman, my mom and my dad. I go to CIS. I am in Grade 1. My favorite subject is my swimming lesson because it is fun. My hobby is playing sports such as baseball and soccer. I am thankful for my little brother, mom, and dad. My dream is to have a farm.



My name is Elliana Ho. I am six years old. I come from Hong Kong. I have 8 people in my family. I go to Marymount Primary School. I go to Grade 1. My favorite subject in school is P.E. because I like to run around. My hobbies are drawing and dancing. I am thankful for having two brothers and I am thankful for having a good mama and a good father. My greatest dream is to be a ballerina.

My partner's name is Mimi Ng. She's 8 years old and she's from Hong Kong. She's in Grade 1 and her favorite subject is English. She lives in Shek Kip Mei. There are 10 people in her family. Her hobby is basketball. She wants to be a policewoman.

Nadia Ho & Bobo Yu

BY JOURNALIST NADIA HO (K3, Braemar Hill)

My name is Nadia Ho. I am five years old and I am from Hong Kong. My family has me, my brother, my mommy and daddy. I go to Braemar Hill Nursery School. I am going to P1. My favorite subject in school is reading because you can learn more words and my favorite hobby is football. I am thankful for my mom. My dream is to be a teacher.

My buddy's name is BoBo Yu. She is six. She is from Hong Kong. She has a big sister and two more sisters. Her favorite subject at school is art.



Drawing Bookmarks

BY JOURNALIST MICHELLE MA (K3, Lingnan Kindergarten)

Dear buddy,

It was nice meeting you at Changing Young Lives.

It was really fun spending time with you and I will always remember that you really like drawing.

I want to thank you for cooking a pizza for me.

The best part of the day was drawing the bookmarks because I like to draw.

I hope you enjoyed the fun day at Changing Young Lives as much as I did!

Yours truly,
Michelle



Cooking Pizza

BY JOURNALIST MICHAEL MA
(P1, SKH Kei Yan Primary School)

Dear Ben,

It was nice meeting you at Changing Young Lives.

It was fun spending time with you and I will always remember that you cooked pizza because you made pizza very tasty.

I want to thank you for cooking pizza with me.

The best part of the day was playing chess with you because it was very fun.

Overall, I learnt how to communicate with others.

I hope you enjoyed the fun day at Changing Young Lives as much as I did!

Yours truly,
Michael



Meet the Photographer

Through examining photos of streets, landmarks and buildings, students explored the fun facts and heritage of Hong Kong and its evolution as a city. Together with Joyce Yung, founder of Random Art Workshop, students discussed and compared works of famous photographers, explored elements of good photography and learned about various techniques in photography. Students were then presented with a photo collage project – “Know Your City”, where they had to communicate an individual perception of Hong Kong. Alongside the photographer, students went on a field trip to uncover the streets, buildings and interesting finds through the camera. Photography impacted students to learn as they were compelled to look at their subjects with more discerning eyes, from various angles, and in different settings. Combining Hong Kong’s dynamic street scene with essential elements of photography, students developed awareness and understanding of their own city as they captured a treasure trove of memories in their photo collage.



Interesting Hong Kong

BY JOURNALIST JENNY ZHANG (P1, SIS)

I chose these photos because they are nice. My favourite kind of photography is wild life. I took photos of a cat and a horse. It was fun making the mood board because I can see all my pictures together. They best part of this project was walking around taking photos. The hardest part was writing this artist statement. I found that shoes in Hong Kong are interesting so I put them on my mood board. I also put photos of food on my mood board because they are yummy.

A Collage of Causeway Bay

BY JOURNALIST GESSY LI (F1, DGS)



Telling a Story with Photos

BY JOURNALIST KATHY FONG (P1, SIS)

My inspiration for my collage board was photojournalism so I wanted my photos to be real and raw. That's why I took pictures like food, sculptures, movie boards, and transportation. My favourite genre is photojournalism because I want my photos to tell a story. My favourite photographer is Larry Burrows because his pictures were interesting about the war. I picked things that would tell a good story about Hong Kong. It was challenging to build the collage because I didn't know where to put my pictures. The best part was making the collage because we could be creative with stickers, colour tapes, paper, stamps, and cardboard. My goal was to create a mood board that tells people how great Hong Kong is.





Causeway Bay

BY JOURNALIST VICKY FONG (P5, SIS)

The inspiration for my photo collage is a place that I have spent a lot of time in Hong Kong: Causeway Bay. To me, Causeway Bay is one of the busiest districts in Hong Kong, a place that I always go to, and also a place with things that are very common in Hong Kong. That is the reason why I chose Causeway Bay out of all the different districts.

I chose to take pictures of elements that would represent Hong Kong, or specifically Causeway Bay. Some were things that we can find mostly anywhere, such as road signs and recycle bins.

Building the photo collage was a fun and exciting experience. Going to a neighbourhood that is very familiar to me with a camera, seemed very different. I found that I ended up taking photos of things that I didn't usually notice. My photo collage had three main parts, which are "food and drinks", "transport", and "Times Square". For the "food and drinks" section, I took photos of vending machines, menus at restaurants, egg tarts, crispy bun, and milk tea, a local favourite. For the "transport" section, I took pictures of an MTR station, mini bus, bus and a bus stop with an extremely long queue. At Times Square, I managed to take photos of a security guard smoking while on duty. Some other photos I took at Times Square include the UA Cinema, Page One, the Lane Crawford entrance, the facade and interior of the mall.

The most challenging part was building the photo collage because I had too many photos and a limited space on the board. The process of building took a total of three hours to complete.

After this experience, I found that Hong Kong is a unique and beautiful city, and I would appreciate it more after this experience.

Two Sides to Hong Kong

BY JOURNALIST SOPHIA MASON (G6, HKIS)

The reason I wanted to do the mood board was to show the two sides of Hong Kong. Hong Kong can be all flashy and shiny but can also be dark and dusty. You could go from the bright glitz and glam of Times Square to the bloody, smelly, dark fish market.

I took a lot of photos of landscapes. I really like landscape photography because I really want to be like Ansel Adams and David LaChapelle. I like Mr. Adams' photos because they give off an eerie feeling that I quite like. His picture "Moon and Half Dome" shows how pretty things are and how we never notice them. David has a photo called "Death by Cheeseburger" that I like.

I chose my photos with the idea that I could show the two very different sides of Hong Kong. I have very few pictures of people on my board and a lot of landscapes, and for every photo I put on my board, I always try to put a little bit of humor in it, just like David LaChapelle.

Building the board was a lot of fun but I had to think up a layout, otherwise everything would just become wild. My layout was sort of a map of where we went. In some of my photos, I used the background blur technique. I had a lot of fun playing around with that. The most challenging thing about this project was capturing exactly the right moment -- that was quite hard. The message of my collage is that there are two very different sides of Hong Kong.



A Dynamic City

BY JOURNALIST MARTIN HOWIE CHOI (G5, ISF)

My inspiration for this mood board is to show the characteristics of Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, we have different kinds of food and drinks; we have things that other countries don't have, like newspaper stands and "dai pai dong". I want people to realize how unique Hong Kong is to me. My artistic inspiration comes from Steve McCurry's style. His style is honest, natural and raw, and that is why I followed his style.

To me, Hong Kong represents a dynamic city, so I want to show the many sides of Hong Kong. Building the mood board was very fun; it was similar to my school's but our board was three times bigger than the ones in school. But I still think it was quite hard because you need a plan, like maps. I think it was very challenging to start the mood board, because there were a lot of pictures to choose from.



Meet the Magician

This module brought supernatural powers to the classroom as students unravelled the mystery behind a series of magic tricks. Under the guidance of Stuart Palm, a professional magician from New York, each student selected one trick to perform, and created a script for it. During the process of perfecting the trick, students built persistence and developed acute attention to detail. As Stuart guided our students to build a script for the performance, they recognized how a well-rehearsed and well-written speech is essential to a successful presentation. During the field trip to Princess Margaret Hospital, students put on a live magic show for sick children at the hospital. The performance was broadcasted through the Playright Channel to other hospitals and was featured on ATV Main News. The performance was an invaluable opportunity for students to build confidence and public-speaking skills while bringing fun to less fortunate children in the hospitals.

Mind Control

BY JOURNALIST LAUREN LAM (P2, St. Paul's Co ed)

My magic trick is called "Mind Control".

Below are the steps and instructions to the magic trick.

Step 1: Take out the color cards.

Step 2: Pick someone from the audience.

Step 3: Ask the person to point with the yellow pencil.

Step 4: Reveal your prediction.

Step 5: Thank your participant and take a bow.

My Magic Show

BY JOURNALIST ALLIE CHU (P1, Marymount Secondary School)

My Magic Show
On August 21st, 2010, I visited the Princess Margaret hospital and performed a magic trick called "Spoken Cards". The effect of my magic trick was an empty cylinder because the most challenging part of my trick was speaking loudly. I can do this because I am in front of the audience. My favorite part of the show was Monkey Transportation because the monkey made a great first hand.



Magic Performance

BY JOURNALIST MATTHEW TAM (G2, DBSPD)

My Magic Performance
On August 21st, 2010, I visited the Princess Margaret hospital and performed a magic trick called "Spoken Cards". The effect of my magic trick was an empty cylinder because the most challenging part of my trick was speaking loudly. I can do this because I am in front of the audience. My favorite part of the show was Monkey Transportation because the monkey made a great first hand.



Insurance Policy

BY JOURNALIST MICHELLE MA (K3, Lingnan Kindergarten)

My magic trick is called "Insurance Policy".

Below are the steps and instructions to the magic trick.

Step 1: Force the five of diamonds.

Step 2: Let the participant shuffle.

Step 3: Find the wrong card.

Step 4: Take out the insurance policy.

Step 5: Ask them what their card was.

Step 6: Then show them all the cards.

Step 7: Finally show the five of diamonds.

In The News!

This module was featured on ATV Main News.

For the news, please see the link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3UK-0fs3dc>

(last 3 minutes) and for additional footage on

the performance, please see

<http://www.youtube.com/user/stuartpalm#p/u/0/>

7GCOunXII_Q [Stuart Palm's website]



Bringing Happiness to Sick Children

BY JOURNALIST MAX LAU (P4, Renaissance College)

Dear Mr. Stuart,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to do magic tricks for the sick children. Our tricks had brought the sick children fun and happiness.

On the 12th of August 2010, some students from LEAP studio went to Princess Margaret Hospital. We did magic tricks for entertainment for the sick children. Before the event, we practiced our tricks three days in a row. The first thing we did was watch you perform the monkey transposition trick. The first time you did it, I thought it was really magical. After you explained the whole thing, I did not think it was that magical anymore. By Wednesday, my partner Colette and I were already really good at the trick.

During the event, the show went really well. I was really excited when I did the trick. The reason was because I was helping to bring happiness to sick kids. I felt scared when I saw the reporter because I thought I was going to be on TV.

After the event, I learned how lucky I am. If I had to do this again, I would improve my lines by making the words simpler for the younger audience to understand. I would suggest Playright to bring in different types of shows such as music, funny plays and stories.

Yours truly,

Max

Practice Makes Perfect

BY JOURNALIST SEAN MENG (Y2, CIS)

Dear Playright,

I'm writing this letter to thank you for organizing this event.

Before the event, I learned and practiced the trick over and over again. On the day, I performed the "Black Magic". I was the mind reader. My partner Jeffrey was the talker. The show went well. I felt very happy because I didn't mess up. I learnt that when I perform, I shouldn't face my back to the audience.

Thank you once again. I would like to do it again in the future.

Yours truly,

Sean



A Meaningful Opportunity

BY JOURNALIST COLETTE WONG (P5, St. Paul's Convent School)

Dear Playright,

Thank you for allowing us to perform to the sick kids who are terminally ill. It was a great opportunity to bring happiness to the kids who have to live in the hospital for a long period of time.

On the 12th August 2010, Leap Studio took my friends and I to the Princess Margaret Hospital to perform magic tricks. Being one of the performers, I was honored to be part of the show which brought happiness to the kids. I hope that I will lessen their pain by entertaining them. There were about 20 of us involved in the magic show. We had 7 shows in total and all of them went well. It was extremely wonderful.

Before the event, it was really three days of hard work. Without working hard, it would be a total mess. Also, without Stuart and Miss Chu's help and guidance, we would not have had such a good show. My partner, Max and I prepared for this show easily because it was not a difficult task. The most shocking of all was when I heard that we would be on TV, I nearly jumped up and screamed!

During the event, the show that Max and I did was wonderful. The most difficult part was when I had to stuff Ian, the monkey, into the bag. It was difficult but I got over it luckily. The most enjoyable part was when the audience found out that Ian wasn't under the cloth and instead, it was a bunch of bananas! It was funny and I burst out laughing.

After this challenging but enjoyable show, I know that it is important to practice before the show. Also, I learnt that teamwork and cooperation are very important from this magic show. It was fun to work with my partner and watching others' performances.

I am impressed with your mission to help the sick kids. It is meaningful since I bring joy to the sick children. Playright can also do more activities with the children. In addition to playing entertainment games, you could bring knowledge and help them to study with games.

This summer vacation is meaningful and unforgettable. I would like to help sick kids by giving them joy and happiness or by doing voluntary work when I'm older.

Yours truly,

Colette Wong

Meet the Dog Trainer

In this module, students investigated the evolution of dogs and compared and contrasted the physical traits, adaptive characteristics, behavior and ownership of different dog breeds. As students visited HKDR's kennel to meet with Mark, the professional dog trainer, and his team, they had the opportunity to spend time with abandoned puppies and learn about building trust, dog training, proper pet care and responsible animal ownership. Students not only developed their skills in leadership and teamwork, they also learnt important concepts about compassion, respect, trust, responsibility and tolerance. Students then applied what they have learnt in a meaningful and relevant context by designing doggie shirts for the HKDR puppies they met on the outing day.



Dogs that Need Homes

BY JOURNALIST HUGO CHAN (G4, ISF)

On the 3rd week of August, Leap Studio ran the module "Meet The Dog Trainer". In this module, I learnt the different dog breeds, dog groups such as guarding, herding, companion and hunting dogs and how dogs evolved from wolves. On Tuesday, I learnt the mission of Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR) from Mark the dog trainer. Their mission focuses on rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing. On Wednesday, Leap Studio went to Ap Lei Zhou to visit the Hong Kong Dog Rescue. The Hong Kong Dog Rescue is separated into three different parts. The one we went to was called Whiskers N Paws.

We went to meet the puppies and went outside to play with them. We had to choose a puppy for this module and make a doggie shirt for him. I chose a puppy that was quite large, he is called Bossy. Because the weather was too hot for Bossy, he just laid down in the shade and rested.

Bossy is not a hyper or energetic dog. He just likes to lie down in the shade and rest and even food won't force him to come out to play with the other dogs.

On the day after the event, we made the doggie shirt. Because Bossy is not quite a hyper dog, I drew a bed next to a fan on my doggie shirt. I also drew some polka dots around the drawing so the doggie shirt wouldn't look so plain.

After this activity, I've learnt that some dogs are not that lucky. I hope that more people will adopt the dogs in the Hong Kong Dog Rescue so that they will have a proper home.

Learning to Take Care of Puppies

BY JOURNALIST VICKY FONG (P5, SIS)

This week was very meaningful as I learnt more about dogs. On the first day, we learnt about the types of dog breeds and the traits of main types of dogs, such as herding, guarding, hunting and companion dogs. We also learnt about the evolution of dogs; how they came to earth by evolving from wolves. On Tuesday, we met with a dog trainer from HKDR, Mark. Mark talked to us about the mission of HKDR, which is: rescue, rehabilitate and re-home. We also learnt that most dogs at HKDR are mutts, which means they have parents of different breeds. HKDR has over 300 dogs in total, and re-homes 500-700 dogs each year. Even this initiative is not enough to save the 10,000 abandoned dogs that get killed every year. The next day, we visited Whiskers N Paws where we got to meet the puppies. There were 6 puppies and I got a puppy called Booty. My favourite part was that I got to play and learn about each puppy. I do not have a dog at home so I was very thrilled when I saw all the puppies.

Booty is a 4-month old puppy and was rescued by HKDR as a stray puppy. Booty is quite small and has yellowish light brown short fur. He has floppy ears, a narrow muzzle and its left eye is partially blind. It is very different from the others as it has an "I"-shaped white pattern on its neck. He is extremely friendly and enjoys licking people's face, but sometimes, it gets quite moody. He is also very sweet, at the same time he is energetic and outgoing too!

The design I had for Booty's dog shirt was a tuxedo. I had chosen this design because he is a very sweet gentleman. I also wrote "BOOTY" on the collar because it was made especially for him.

After this experience, I have learnt that dogs are really "man's best friends". Unfortunately, we do not treat them as well as we are supposed to, so I hope that others will learn to treat them well like I did.

A Cute Shirt for Cricket

BY JOURNALIST JESSIE YIP (P1, DGJS)

This week I learned about how wolves evolved into dogs and how to feed and clean them. The most interesting thing that I learned this week was how to make doggie shirts. My favorite dog breed that I learned about was Corgi because it is cute!

I went on an outing to Whiskers N Paws and did many fun activities such as play with the dogs. My favorite part of the whole day was play with the dogs because they are cute and lovely. I was paired with a puppy called Cricket. The three words I would use to describe my puppy are stubborn, lovely and cute.

For my doggie shirt, I drew Cricket's name. I chose to make this design because my puppy's name is Cricket. It suits my puppy because it is cute and playful. The biggest challenge I had when making the shirt was the sparkles because it made the floor dirty. Even though it was hard work to make the shirt I hope my puppy likes it!



Hockey the Girly Puppy

BY JOURNALIST JASMINE SHEK (P1, SIS)

This week I learned about dog breeds like therapy dogs, hunting dogs, rescue dogs. The most interesting thing that I learned this week was that dogs can drink water while they pee. My favorite dog breed that I learned about was beagle because they are friendly.

I went on an outing to Whiskers N Paws and did many fun activities such as playing with puppies and taking a bath with them. My favorite part of the whole day was playing with Hockey because he keeps chasing me. I was paired with a puppy called Hockey. The three words I would use to describe my puppy are cute, nicely-shaped and floppy ears.

For my doggie shirt, I drew I'm a fabulous dog. I chose to make this design because I think it's going to be cute on the dogs. It suits my puppy because Hockey is very girly. The biggest challenge I had when making the shirt was putting the glitters on the letter because they will move to another letter and the colour will mix. Even though it was hard work to make the shirt I hope my puppy likes it!



Dogs are Cool

BY JOURNALIST NADIO HO (K3, Braemar Hill)

This week I learned about how to take care of dogs and I learned how to train them. The most interesting thing that I learned this week was how to make them sit and feed them and how to play with them. My favorite dog breed that I learned about was chihuahua because if a building doesn't let the dog in you can put it in your bag.

I went on an outing to Whiskers N Paws and did many fun activities such as playing with puppies. My favorite part of the whole day was feeding them because they love food. I was paired with a puppy called Hockey. The three words I would use to describe my puppy are nice, good and brown.

For my doggie shirt, I drew dogs are cool. I chose to make this design because dogs are cute and nice. It suits my puppy because she is cute and nice. The biggest challenge I had when making the shirt was painting the words because I had to trace it carefully. Even though it was hard work to make the shirt I hope my puppy likes it!



Kindergarten Modules

Virtues:

Through stories and real life scenarios, students learned a broad range of virtues such as helpfulness, generosity, patience and courage. Students were taught ways to practice these virtues in daily life. For instance, in the 'generosity' class, students were asked to think about children in need and draw pictures of the things that they are willing to give away. The thought to take home was "giving brings more happiness than receiving".



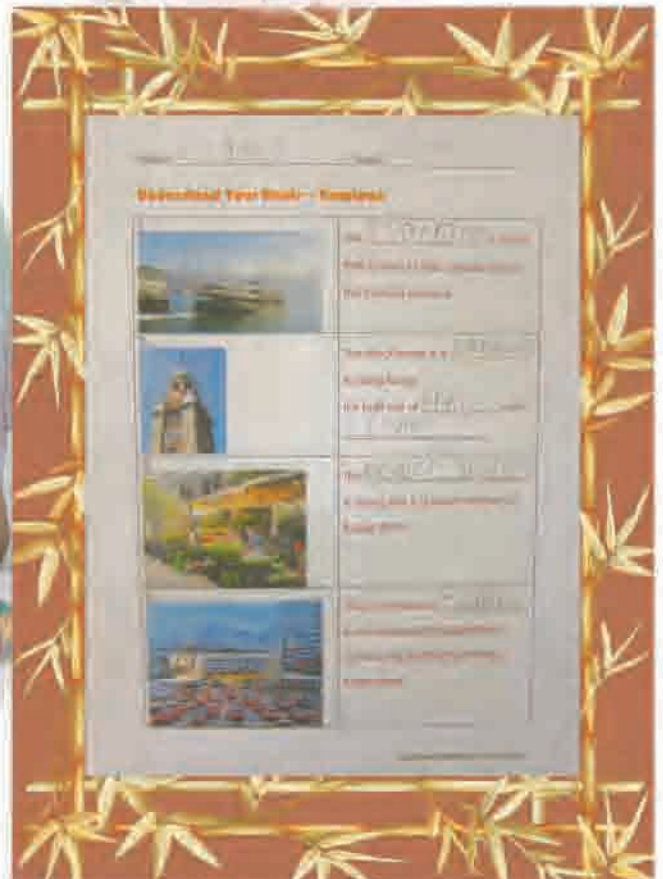
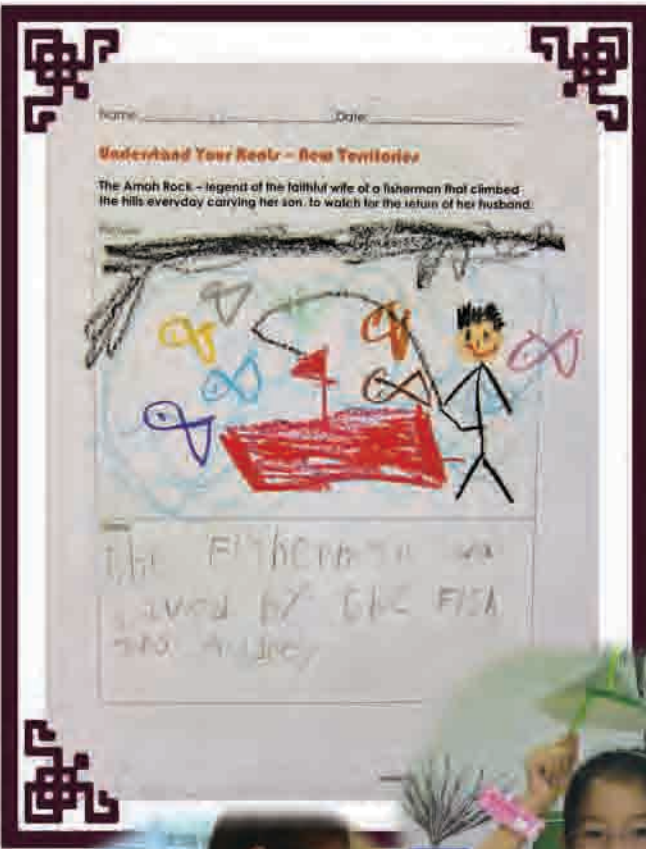
Animal Ambassadors:

Students learned a wide array of animals from the rainforest to the safari. They were also taught about responsible pet ownership and discovered different dog breeds. Through exploring the animal kingdom, students compiled a list of vocabulary relating to the physical attributes, habitat and behaviour of each animal.



Understand Your Roots:

This module aimed at stimulating students' interest in their heritage. The old and new Hong Kong were shown through exploring notable landmarks and districts. Fun facts behind street names, way of life in the olden days and famous tourist spots were shared with students.



The Interns

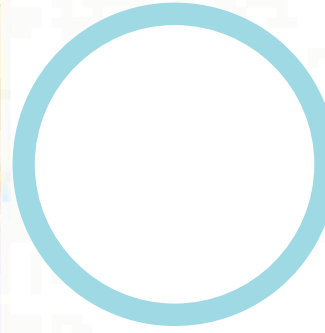


Becky Mak (G12, HKIS)

At the end of my senior year at HKIS, I went to my teacher, Dr. Marty Schmidt, to see if he had any summer opportunities I could become involved with. His reply for me was a question: "Becky, how do you feel about interning at a tutorial center that teaches children about microfinance?" At first, I was in disbelief. When it became clear he was being serious, I could barely contain my excitement. I told him I felt very thrilled to hear of, let alone work at, a place that enables children to become socially conscious at young age. I was especially drawn to LEAP because of its similarities with a class that has shaped my life, Humanities 1 in Action. Both LEAP and Humanities 1 in Action focus on heightening the students' social consciousness and deepening their understanding of our global community.

This internship at LEAP has surpassed all of my expectations in terms of what I would gain from it. At the beginning, I expected only to learn how to organize and present the knowledge I had gained in high school for kids. My responsibility, which was to help develop LEAP's curriculum for their year long classes, definitely allowed me to do what I predicted. This summer, I created lesson plans on topics like global warming, world religions and the power of advertisements. However, in addition to my initial expectations, I have also gained further understanding of both teachers and children as I tried out teaching when I spent a week as a TA with the "Meet the Product Designer" module. Another unanticipated but welcomed experience was my exposure to other social entrepreneurs and charities in Hong Kong. Thanks to Agnes and Yvonne's wide network and enthusiasm, I have been invited to listen to many inspirational speakers such as Caroline Casey, the founder of the Asiling Foundation.

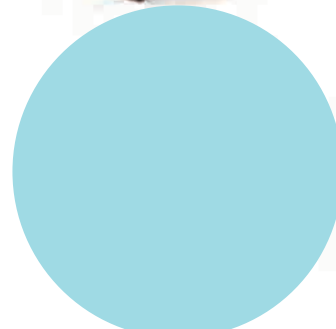
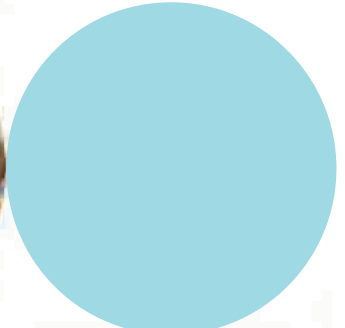
However, the social entrepreneurs and charities I learned about were not the only people that were inspirational. In fact, the most motivational people I met this summer were the co-founders of LEAP and my fellow interns and teachers and even the students. My favorite part of my internship was the environment created by the people around me – it is an environment perfect for learning, fostered by the constant flow of creativity and unstoppable energy of optimism. Being a part of LEAP was an unforgettable experience and I hope to continue being involved with this innovative tutorial center in the future.



Sharon Lam (G11, HKIS)

My experience as a part-time intern at LEAP studio was rewarding to say the least. The opportunity was first opened up to me by Mr. Schmidt, a high school humanities teacher at HKIS, who channeled the idea of teaching kids about social issues like cage dwellers and suggested I help out this summer.

I learned, more so than anything, what curriculum development entails, and it's taught me not to underestimate the planning involved behind developing a comprehensive, full-fledged module. I feel that we had just the perfect balance of flexibility to choose an area of interest and guidance to help facilitate and take us through the process of module writing. One thing I'm definitely going to miss is the collaborative environment and positive energy in the studio when we all helped each other on our class plans and exchanged ideas and insight. I'm excited to see how the modules turn out!



Victoria Chen (G11, HKIS)

Interning with LEAP Studio has been an amazing experience. I've been able to work with Agnes and Yvonne to help develop modules surrounding humanities and social issues. Agnes and Yvonne are really dedicated and passionate about empowering young children with knowledge of the world around them, along with expanding their worldview. It's just great to see young children having the opportunity to embrace new ideas and become aware of the issues facing the world, in order to help make this world a better place. I'm so glad I had this opportunity to work with LEAP, and I look forward to helping out in the future.



Daisy Lo (F7, DGS)

Working as an intern at Leap Studio is an extremely valuable experience to me. After A-Level examinations, my teacher in DGS suggested us that we might work as interns at Leap Studio

As an intern, I was asked to prepare class plans for the regular courses in the upcoming academic year. The job was far more complex than what I expected. During the first meeting with Ms. Kong, I thought that I would be able to complete tasks easily with the help of what I had learnt at school and the experience I got from being a committee member of Current Affairs Club in DGS. However, right after the second meeting, I realized that I had underestimated the difficulty of the tasks. It was never an easy task to prepare an interesting and educational class for children. It required lots of time on planning and conducting research. I was lucky that with the help of Ms. Kong, Ms. Chu and other interns, I could finish three modules. I hope what I have prepared would attract parents and children. Also students enrolled can really learn from and enjoy the lessons.

Being an intern at Leap Studio is a wonderful experience to me. Through the internship, I have made more friends and have gained more career-related experience and knowledge. I would like to say thank you to Leap Studio for providing me a chance to enjoy a truly meaningful and fruitful summer this year!!

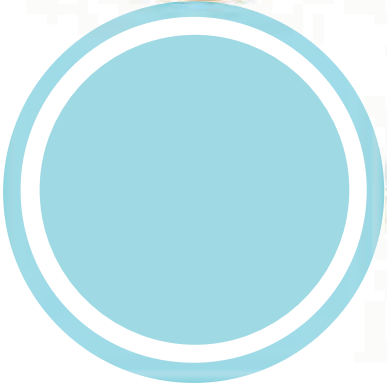
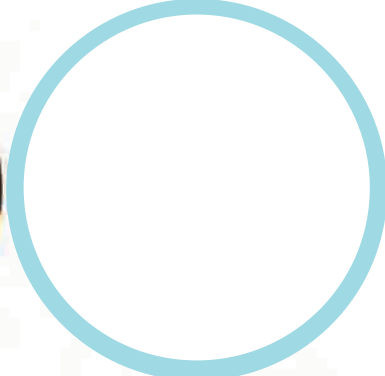


Sherwin Wong (F7, DGS)

The internship experience at LEAP studio has been very rewarding and memorable. After having the A-levels exam, I was looking for a chance to learn outside the classroom when my teacher recommended LEAP studio to me.

At first, I thought this would be a simple job at an ordinary tutorial centre. But I was wrong. As a summer intern, I was given the opportunity to design class plans for children of different ages. Making good use of the knowledge acquired from school, I focused on developing modules related to liberal studies. Developing class plans was no easy task. Fortunately, Agnes and Yvonne guided and assisted me throughout the process. With the help from the two co-founders, I was able to attend talks and events which deepened my understanding of current affairs. Moreover, exchange of ideas with teachers and the other summer interns in our regular meetings always resulted in brilliant ways to make lessons more enjoyable for children.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work at LEAP studio. It was great to know how we, students, can pass on our knowledge to younger children and raise their awareness of various world issues.



Wun Tsz Sum (07, DGS)

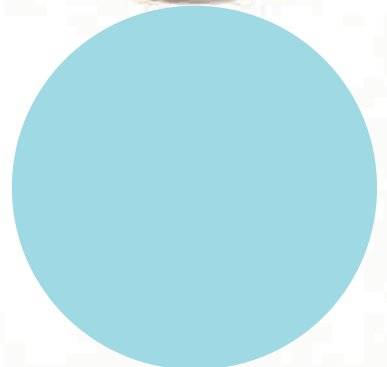
Interning at Leap Studio this summer, I helped out with putting together class plans for the regular term, the layout designing of two volumes of Leap Post, and occasionally assisting the teaching of the summer modules. This proved to be one of the more challenging summers that I have had, but it has been an extremely valuable experience.

Creating class plans was more than just a replication of the material I had previously learnt in school; it involved the processes of refining the focus of very broad but important social topics for the appropriate age groups, researching teaching material, and thinking up creative activities to reinforce students' understanding of concepts. These were tasks that I had little experience with, and stretched me beyond my own prior knowledge of the subjects, at the same time sharpening my skills in communication and collaboration.

Designing the Leap Post was also a new challenge for me, as I had never before attempted to design an entire newsletter. Aside from being a challenge for me in terms of time management, this was a task of much organization, planning and creativity. There was much satisfaction, however, when in the end I was able to see my designs printed and distributed at Leap Studio.

Helping to teach the summer modules was also an interesting time. I saw how students of a young age were able to grasp material which would seem at first too difficult for them, and was impressed at the ambition of Leap Studio to stretch the horizons of these students.

All in all, I thank Leap Studio for giving me this opportunity this summer to hone skills which will prove very useful in not only my academics but also my future career, and I hope that many students will benefit much from what Leap has to offer them.



Sign up for the 2010-11 School Term!

Please contact us directly for schedules and module details.

Topic-based Program

- Each module will cover a different topic ranging from **career, current affairs, social/civic education to life skills development**. Through a topic of interest, students will be stimulated to **think critically, read and write analytically, and speak confidently**.
- Students will also have the opportunity to meet and interview **LEAP's network of guest speakers** and be involved with **practical "case studies"** connecting classroom learning to real-world applications.
- Program contains **4 progressives stages** subdivided into different levels according to age, language ability and higher-order skills. Each level covers different topics with progressive learning outcomes and skills achieved upon completion of each stage.



Readers and Writers Program

- A new program combining the **reading style of traditional book clubs with the creative and analytical writing exercises of a writing class** to form a single comprehensive program to boost children's interest and potential in reading and writing.
- By the end of each module, students complete 4-5 novels, strengthening analytical and writing skills while appreciating different literature styles and forms.



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