

平安福音堂幼稚園 (沙田)

Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten (Sha Tin)

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Annual Journal Year 2021-2022

All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten



EdUHK Christian Faith and Development Centre
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Over the past century, schools set up by church organizations in Hong Kong have nurtured a great many talents who have contributed immensely to our community and even country. How time flies! As history continues, so has the world evolved exponentially. Quality of life in the 21st century has improved significantly compared to just a few generations ago. Students now need much more than accumulating textbook knowledge and finding a job. We live in times where individualism dominates, morals are diverse, in addition to that the function of the family is disoriented, knowledge is fragmented and values are twisted. The church is climbing an uphill battle as it continues to hold steadfast to Christian values in its operation of schools and outreach ministry.

Many missionaries heeded to the calling of the Lord to come to China a century ago, working relentlessly, engaging in outreach and missions work and setting up newspapers, establishing schools and introducing the Western model of education which made a lasting impact on the education overhaul during the late Qing dynasty to the early Republic of China. Situated in Southern China, missionaries in Hong Kong enjoyed the conveniences of founding schools. As education influenced and changed society, more families had the opportunity of hearing the gospel through their children's schooling. Today, over half of the public secondary and primary schools in Hong Kong are founded by Christian organizations, many of them highly sought after by parents because of their long history of establishment and rich heritage.

In terms of early childhood education, today there are over a thousand nurseries, kindergarten and child care centres in Hong Kong, amongst which 400 of them were founded in Christianity. Looking back at Hong Kong's history, an education report in 1894 initially mentioned that Basel Mission, now known as Tsung Tsin Mission, set up the first kindergarten in Sai Ying Pun to teach underprivileged Chinese children, providing life skills training such as hand-eye coordination. By the early 20th century, most schools founded by missionaries also began to operate kindergartens to offer a more well-rounded curriculum, allowing children to learn through playing. Ying Wa Girls' School established a two-year kindergarten in 1911; its original structure has been preserved within the refurbished Ying Wa Girls' School campus.

Christian education in schools should be rooted in the knowledge of Christ - allowing students to get to know this loving Creator, and building up their Christ-like character. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The way to go should be one that fears the Lord. Churches set up schools as a way to share the gospel, but more importantly because they understand how education can influence a child. Quality early childhood education is one that finds a good balance between play, skills and affective development, as well as academics. A child who is taught in a community that is full of love and life will no doubt become a person who knows God and one who grows in sound character and ability.

American bestselling author Robert Fulghum wrote a book of short essays 30 years ago called *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. The title of the book is taken from the first essay in the volume, and also how I adapted the Chinese title of my sharing. Turns out most of what we really need to know including how to live, taking care of ourselves, being kind to one another, leading a balanced life, appreciating the mysteries and divine meaning of life, and even how to view life and death — we learned all of this in kindergarten!

This illustrates why early childhood education plays such an important role in foundational education. So what are our kindergartens teaching now? Are we still unconsciously helping parents achieve their desires of seeing children "win at the starting line"? Without the competition and academic pressures that primary and secondary schools have, are kindergartens able to incorporate elements of "morality, intelligence, physique, social skills and aesthetics" into their students' daily schedules? Are children able to accumulate wisdom and intelligence of how to relate with their peers during playtime? Are students able to discover the goodness of God and experience His presence?

"Having life to the full" is the inheritance Jesus Christ left for us during His time of work on earth. Hong Kong churches today work extremely hard in their operation of schools; may our children continue to learn and practice daily "the most important little things" through their teachers' guidance and nurturing.

Review and Prospects

Abundant and Overflowing Grace

Principal Chau Yuk Lai

This is my 25th year serving at Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten (PECK) and the final academic year before I retire. It has truly been a journey of God's abundant grace. Praise God for protecting our school over the past two years during the pandemic and keeping us safe, allowing us to experience grace upon grace. During the 2021-2022 academic year, we were fortunate that Vice-Principal Kong On Shan led us in an update of our Montessori curriculum and learning environment, while often encouraging teachers to privately practice using their Montessori materials. All this has enabled our staff to spend more time reflecting on their teaching and ultimately strengthened their personal qualities as teachers.

What a blessing it was for K3 parents to attend lesson observations in their children's final year at PECK, during the first half of the 2021-2022 academic year. Parents were able to witness for themselves how a Montessori environment meets the needs of their children and fosters their concentration. We genuinely hope that parents can appreciate how their children are able to take care of themselves, of their environment, all while remaining focused on their studies.

In February, classes were suspended again because of the pandemic. This wave of infections tore through our community, with over 70% of our staff, parents and students having contracted COVID. The whole of Hong Kong seemed to be in a standstill — what did the Lord want us to learn from this experience? He is a good God and remains constant. I was reminded in **2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NIV), "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."** Whether in times of peace or great trouble, God is in control of every moment; we can remain faithful by following Him and committing everything in prayer. Our God is greater than the pandemic and we can trust Him to carry us through. During the year, our staff and faculty often gathered to pray together, committing our students, parents and families to Him.



God has been faithful in His love and mercies, blessing every kindergarten family abundantly.

This academic year, the kindergarten successfully applied for two project subsidies, allowing us to hire a team of education experts to develop a parenting education program, and another imitation on professional development for our teachers. We will continue to use "play" as a theme to coach parents on how to interact with their children. We have no doubt that parents have mixed feelings as they recall the prolonged class suspensions earlier this year, all wondering what they could do at home with their children? How could they foster healthy development through intentional interactions? Our hope is that with "play" as the core theme of parent education and continuous practice, it will deepen their understanding and strengthen relationships with their children. As for professional development, our goal is to provide learner differentiation in the classroom by taking into consideration the various needs of students, and to support the development of every individual child's strengths and passions.

Over the past two years, God has taught us to not take for granted every opportunity we have to converse and interact with our students, allowing us to influence them through our lives. At the same time, we also hope that our parents and students can experience the love of Christ and His powerful presence, to go forth in a new academic year with gratitude, love and divine blessings.



Group photo of staff



Principal Chau and Principal Fok were interviewed by Metro Radio's program

Montessori Education

My Views on Montessori Education

Vice Principal Kong On Shan



During the 2021-22 academic year, key agenda items for Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten included strengthening its Montessori teaching philosophy, preparing for a suitable learning environment, managing instructional material, observing students, etc. The school also invited an experienced Montessori instructor to train and develop its teachers.

In May 2021, the Montessori instructor came to our Shatin campus to inspect our Montessori environment in preparation for the new school year in September. The school had to order additional Montessori instructional material and resources for various areas across the campus to enhance the learning environment for our students.

During the summer holidays, we organized a Montessori Education Teacher Development Workshop in August. After the workshop, it was obvious from teachers' feedback that they fully agreed with what Madam Montessori had advocated about the role of the teacher and its importance.

Our teachers were eager and interested to learn more about the Montessori Method. In order to ensure continuation of this, the school established a Montessori Education learning group which allowed teachers to stay in touch with their instructor. Whenever teachers had queries on the usage of any teaching material or about Montessori Education, they could raise their questions in the group; the instructor was always very proactive in encouraging discussions and providing feedback. During this learning progress, both parties grew in their knowledge and understanding of this method.

In mid-August, teachers began preparing for the new school year; one of the key learnings in their professional development was to apply their training in a schedule of their own choice. Teachers began to set up the scheduling, groupings of toddler and roster of teachers.

It was crucial to bear in mind about the point of contact between teachers and toddlers which helps the latter to establish a sense of security in their learning environment. Teachers are the crux of the learning environment and when toddlers are able to feel safe, they are then able to enter a regular learning routine. Students have to be familiarized with entering different learning areas, understand the established rules in each area, and ultimately get a good grasp of how to be in the same space with their peers.

A key strategy to aid toddlers in learning effectively is to observe them; apart from making anecdotal observations, teachers also made use of rubrics designed for different learning areas to capture the learning progress of their students. These records allow teachers to analyze their students' learning progress, and make suitable accommodations in their teaching strategy. For example, combining knowledge of a student's learning progress as defined in the Montessori Toddler Learning Guide together with the child's actual progress of learning, to then decide whether it would be best to provide an individual or group demonstration for the child, or to give the child autonomy in choosing a set of teaching material for their self-learning.

The prepared environment according to Maria Montessori is not only limited to the school environment, but can also be implemented in their daily lives. For that purpose, the school arranged a parent Montessori seminar, during which the speaker reminded parents not to coddle their children and do everything for them, but rather to encourage their children to be proactive, which ultimately establishes their sense of ability in their daily living and helps them become independent.

We genuinely hope that our school, teachers and parents can work together to contribute to our children's growth and development. This is how we can bless our next generation, and what Jesus Christ wants us to do in paying it forward.



Family Ministries

Review

Pastor Leung



The 2021-22 academic year was adversely affected by the fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten was forced to suspend in-person learning; church activities and parent academy were either postponed or suspended. The COVID-19 pandemic caused many to worry about the future of Hong Kong, leading to a large number of families migrating overseas. Everyone was living under immense pressure, especially parents because they had to take care of their children who had to stay home from school, while juggling their work either at the office or from home.

These families all faced unique challenges, which made family pastoral care ever more crucial. Principal Chau led our team of teachers and pastoral staff to collaborate and reach out to our students and their families, providing them with the care and support they needed, all while keeping one another in prayers and thoughts.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you." 2 The 3:16

Reflection and Highlights of the 2021-22 Academic Year:

1. Saturday's "360° Degrees of Quality Family" workshop for K2-K3 families: this was successfully held during the first term and we received 14 feedback letters. Below is an excerpt from one of the letters:

We are grateful that the school and church organized this program which allowed us to learn how to enhance the quality of family education. Parenting no doubt poses challenges, but we are determined that despite all the trials we might face, to continue to build up effective

communication, to remain united as a couple, and to teach our children to love God and their neighbors. We desire for them to know how to discern the right path, in order to become someone who walks with integrity and contributes to society. We hope to apply the knowledge and skills we have learned in our daily lives, so that our family can grow in harmony and happiness, and our children can be raised in a loving family. Children had fun in their workshop, while parents had the chance to reflect on their behavior and how they could improve. We learned about different parenting methods and how to maintain a strong family; we have been able to make positive changes and see how it has created a positive impact in our families too.

2. Wednesday's "6A Character Parent Group" workshop for K2-K3 families: all participating parents were very engaged in discussion and interaction with one another, some had even specially taken time off work to attend this workshop. They shared about their children and their own love language, learned about character traits, how to take care of their children's emotional needs and nurture their unique abilities, etc.

3. Our Christian Parent Group that was held once a fortnight was a success in establishing a close bond between parents of alumni and current students. They explored and discussed the core values of Christian education, which enhanced positive individual and family values and ignited their drive to practice 6A character education.

4. Thursday's "All-Rounded Parenting Group" for K1 families gave parents a chance to openly share the joys and challenges of parenting, which helped them to get acquainted very quickly and even watch out for one another.

5. During class suspension and the special holiday, a Zoom parent-child platform was created for kids to share with one another. Parents Sunday School on Zoom discussed the parent-child attachment theory. Before in-person instruction resumed, Rapid Antigen Test kits and gospel tracks (信望愛福音袋) were distributed to families.

6. We are thankful for Pastor Law joining the team. He shared about "bringing Jesus along to work" which was encouraging for our faculty and staff.



Words from Parents of Graduates



K3 AM Class

Parents of
Lo Nga Lam Stephanie



Three years of kindergarten life went by in the blink of an eye. As we reflect on this time, we are so thankful that the Lord led our daughter Stephanie to Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten. Stephanie adores everyone at this school, including Principal Chau, Vice-Principal Kong, School Academic Officer Ms. Choi, teachers, Pastor Leung, Ms. Leung, helper aunties and all her classmates. We are so grateful for the love, care and teaching they have showered upon Stephanie.

Stephanie often shares with Mom and Dad stories about her school day. She especially enjoys working in the practical life area. Amongst all the different types of homework, Stephanie's favorite is writing in her Daily Life Journal. During the summer vacation that was moved up to spring of 2022, Stephanie's teacher Ms. Lam encouraged her to continue journaling and capturing all her happy memories. Reading through these stories one by one now and remembering those moments continues to fill Stephanie up with positive energy!

Despite the pandemic, Stephanie really treasured the time she could attend online classes with Ms. Lam, and was absolutely over the moon when she heard about the resumption of in-person classes!

We truly appreciate the trust from Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten, allowing us to serve as parent volunteers. When Stephanie was in K1, School Academic Officer Ms. Choi invited us to read stories at school and assist in a class visit to the supermarket. As Stephanie moved onto K2 and K3, Ms. Lam invited us to serve on campus, allowing us to understand more about our daughter's learning environment in school.

On the last day of the 2021-2022 academic year, I was so surprised that a graduating student came to give me a hug. This year, a student in K1 gifted me some candies. As Stephanie's Mom, gestures like these have brought tremendous joy and happiness to me.

Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten has been the right school and best school for Stephanie. We genuinely hope that Stephanie will continue to live out the values, morals and knowledge that she has learned over the past three years as she continues to move into primary school.

Blessings to all students and teachers at Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten!



K3 PM Class


Parents of
Lee Zachary Yui Gwong



Praise God for leading Zachary to study at Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten and before knowing it, he has already completed three years of kindergarten. Looking back at this time, there have been so many firsts for Zachary, including the first time he performed on stage, first time he brought home his schoolwork, and the first time he went on a school outing... all these fond memories will always bring a smile to my face. Kindergarten is often considered the highlight of a child's school years; despite experiencing so many disruptions over the past few years of schooling, I knew Zachary still really liked school and his kindergarten.

I am thankful that Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten was Zachary's first school. Zachary is a very independent and imaginative child; many don't find it





easy to understand or accept his out-of-the-box thinking, yet this school gave Zachary a safe environment and plenty of space to develop his strengths and passions. The continual recognition and assurance from teachers and classmates motivated him to express his thoughts confidently.

Every time we share about Zachary's kindergarten, we feel compelled to mention how it's an extremely compassionate and caring school. That feeling was especially true during the pandemic, because despite being stuck at home, Zachary often received hand-written cards and small crafts from his teachers, and even I received a card with words of encouragement too. Every interaction we had with the school left a strong impression on me that teachers did not only care about their academics, but even more so, their health and wellbeing. During my conversations with Zachary's teachers, I felt that they truly understood him and would spend time to counsel him about the problems and challenges he came across in school.

Zachary loved telling me everything about kindergarten, whether it was small things such as helper auntie having the same surname as him, or as big as arguing with a classmate, or what his favorite task in school was, from his sharing I could see how much he loved school.

Thank you so much Principal Chau, Vice-Principal Kong, teachers, teaching assistants and helper aunties for taking care of Zachary and teaching him, giving him three wonderful years in school. May God reward you for your selfless giving, and may all graduates continue to follow His footsteps closely.

Finally, may the Lord continue to bless Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten and use you to bless many more children.



K3 AM Class

Parents of
Chu Cheuk Fung, Chu Cheuk Ying



It seems like it was just yesterday that Cheuk Fung and Cheuk Ying started school at Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten, but how time flies and now they have already experienced their first graduation in life!

The past three years have been challenging for everyone. We still remember school being suspended shortly after they started K1, and when classes resumed we worried if they would be able to adjust. Thankfully they were able to tell us how much they missed their teachers and helper aunties. No one could have foreseen that the next two years would become even more challenging as the pandemic worsened; Mom was under immense pressure and her worries increased. Finally, she chose to share her anxieties with all three of the children and discuss openly about what was happening. We talked about what everyone wanted to do after the pandemic was over. Cheuk Fung and Cheuk Ying learned how to pray during this time, and told our Heavenly Father what was on their minds.

It was touching to see how teachers poured their hearts and minds into continuing their teaching and interaction with students online. Online learning no doubt posed challenges for young children, but teachers always gave out reminders to students patiently. We're very grateful to teachers for their care towards students during school suspension.

Reflecting on Cheuk Fung and Cheuk Ying's last month of schooling and their graduation still gets me emotional. With three children growing up in Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten, I spent six years dropping them off and picking them up from the school entrance. I have fond memories of witnessing their growth over the years - seeing how they went from not knowing anyone in school to greeting one another every day, sometimes even giving hugs.

Finally, I am so thankful that my three children were able to study in such a loving school, from the Principal, teachers to all the helper aunties, who all helped to create a loving and joyful kindergarten experience for them.

Blessings and good health to all those at Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten - teachers, helper aunties and Principal Chau, as you continue to create and provide a happy kindergarten life to many more children!



Creative Learning



Parent-Child Fun Day :
Sharing Time for Story Books



Lantern Festival :
Play with lanterns and Guess riddles



New Year's Eve Activity :
Fishing Fun



Parent-Child Fun Day :
Human Wheel

Creative Learning

K2



We cut the broccoli into small pieces



Come and Explore the game of light and shadow



We observed the clouds in different shapes outdoors!



Thank you Our Heavenly Father for the sunny weather!

Creative Learning

K3



What a beautiful environment created by Our Heavenly Father!



Let's do sports together at Happy Farm!



It is really interesting for K3 classes to experience English classes in primary school!



We use puzzles to show love to our families!



It's really fun to go out and sketch together!

Creative Learning



Art Activity :
Palm Print



English Activity :
Make a big PIZZA together



Design Activity :
Exploring the Shape of Fruits



Themed Activity :
Exploring Home Intervals



Bible Themed Experience Activity :
We acted as Mary

Family Fun Activity:
Volunteer helped us for the Play Day

Creative Learning

K2



1,2,3 go!
Throw the plane



We are listening to
the missionarie's sharing



yummy breakfast !



We like ice cream !



We are the train!




We move forward with
butterfly feet

Creative Learning

K3



We are listening intently to the story of the House of God!




Come and enjoy the chessboard that we designed!!



We are testing gravity of earth!



Let's play with big elastic bands while listening to music!



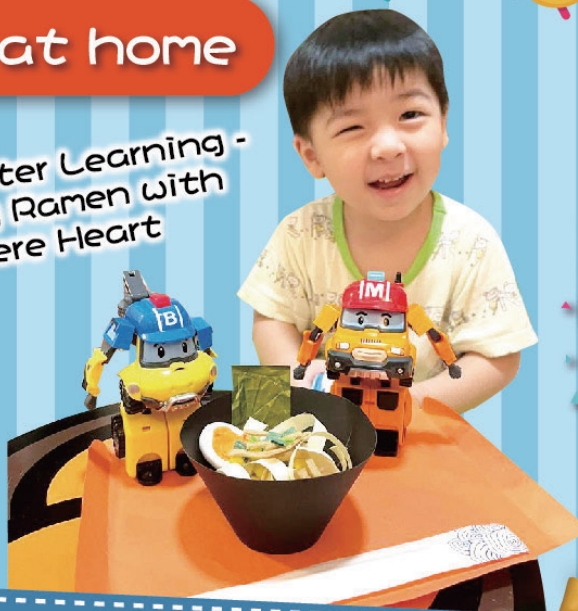
Interesting English class, caps for sale!



We are going to throw away our anger!

Studying at home

Character Learning -
Making Ramen with
a Sincere Heart



I will make my own tea
and observe the
color change



Mom and Dad
making scented
tea with me



Making flower prints
at home with
the family

Make fruit
scented tea
at home



Studying at home

I make colorful cakes diligently!



K2

Go!
My colorful wooden spinning top!



I made a colorful butterfly
out of tissue paper!



Look!
These are light
clay vegetables!

I learned how to
draw butterfly!



Studying at home

This is our sincere ramen!



K3



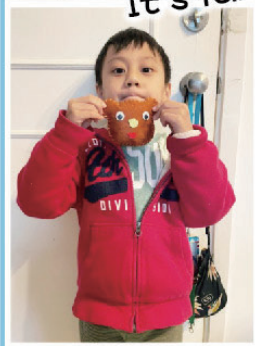
Let's learn sincerity together!



We built the seed painting carefully!



It's fun to sew dolls!



We use the seeds to build up a spring scene!



Home-school cooperation



Saturday's "360° Degrees of Quality Family"



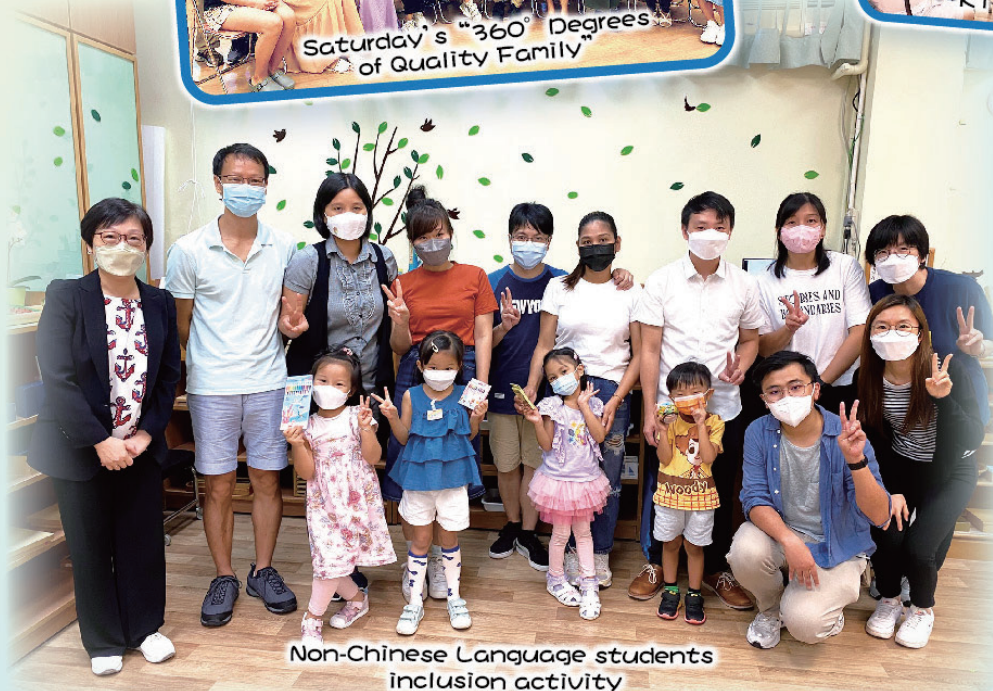
K1 Parents Meeting



K1 Parent-teacher Meeting



A church tour for K1 Parents



Non-Chinese Language students inclusion activity

Staff Training



Personality, Dimensions and Effective Parent Communication Workshop for staff



Social worker led everyone to experience Pastel Nagomi Art



English training Alphabetic knowledge and Early Writing



Helping children to learn language through play in the daily life



Principal Fok leads Montessori Education teacher training