

**SOUTH COAST
CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL INC.**
南岸中文学校



2022 Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Students,

It's really wonderful that we were able to resume face-to-face learning from week 6, the 2nd half of Term 1, in this new school year. Welcome everyone to 2022, especially the new students and parents joining our school community. I would like to thank parents and students for supporting our educational philosophy and give us the opportunity to continue the operation of the Chinese school with confidence. May the Year of the Tiger bring us more strength and vitality. We will definitely persist while celebrating our 20th anniversary this year. Let's learn, play, and grow together!

Online classroom synchronous teaching: Due to the pandemic, some students have to isolate at home. During this term, we have been successful in enabling the isolated students to take lessons with their other classmates. We would email students the PPT and worksheets, as well as the Zoom link in advance. During class time, the teacher activated the Zoom classroom and the students joined from home. The arrangement has been going smoothly so far. In the future, if your child/ren are unable to go to school due to the public health orders and restrictions, please contact the class teacher in advance for remote learning arrangement.

The lucky draw took place at the school on 11 March (week 6). Congratulations to the 10 students who received gift cards. Ryan Tang won the grand prize of a new iPad bundle. It's great for one to be bestowed with good luck, however, I do hope that every student will always strive hard to learn Chinese. As the Chinese saying goes: to learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.



Pen-pal activity: Unfortunately, this meaningful cultural exchange activity is discontinued after the first Zoom meeting with the P'uma Elementary School. We could not proceed with the correspondence between the two schools because of the three-hour time difference. We only have two hours of class on Friday afternoons and our class hours clash with the other school's life lesson of outdoor activities. Despite this unfortunate setback, don't be too disappointed, I am sure if we continue to explore, we will definitely find a school that is suitable for our pen-pal activities and give our students the chance to improve their Chinese language skills.

HSK/YCT: The pandemic has caused delays of all international outgoing mails from China. As advised by the Sydney HSK Centre, the examination will be postponed until term 3 (Friday, 9th of September). We will take this opportunity to better prepare our students for the examinations since we have more time on our end. If you would like to practice during this school holiday, please let me know and I will email you the past exam papers once a week.

School learning curriculum: last year we were fortunate enough to receive a funding from the community languages multicultural grants. The grants can be used to support school operational costs such as staff wages, teaching materials and resources, as well as professional development programs. After consultation with the ACLS education officer, we formed a resource team to develop our own learning curriculum which is based on the K-10 Chinese learning program but customised to meet the learning needs of our students. After 8 months, we finally completed the curriculum resource pack. It consists of three different levels, and each level has 10 learning topics. Thanks to Ms. Tan and Ms. Sun's for their time and contributions. In addition, the school also bought iPads and/or laptops for staff and students to use in class.

Cultural activities: since we are back to face-to-face teaching, the annual cultural program, eg. traditional Chinese dance and/or music, craft etc. will also start in the term 2. We welcome your valuable suggestions.

Free parents' class: four parents joined this class at beginning of term 1. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, only 2 parents completed this session in the end. The next session will start on Wednesday, 4th of May and will be on for 5 weeks. Yes, the class has been changed to Wednesday as suggested by some parents. Please express your interest by returning the form at <https://www.southcoastschool.com/enrolments/express-interest>. I look forward to seeing you on Zoom.



Class Teachers' Report

Stage K&1 ~ Ms. Sun

First, I would like to thank all parents & caregivers for all your help and support this term.

Our theme this term was *Celebrations*. We had fun learning all about *Chinese New Year*. Students learnt about the origins of the festival, some of the important traditions and customs. They also learnt about the language related to the festival, such as, exchanging festival greetings, and describing festival food. We also learnt about the *12 Chinese zodiac animals* where students learnt to talk about animals, ways to describe their appearances. Using the theme of animals, we learnt ways to express some basic feelings and expressions, such as likes and dislikes, and things that scare us, that can also be used in everyday life. Our last topic was

My Birthday, in which we learnt to vocabulary used to describe our birthdays and talk about ways we celebrate our birthdays.

Our main aims for this term have been for students to become comfortable using Chinese, responding to simple and familiar language in songs and cartoon video, and to be able to recognise and write basic Chinese characters.

A wonderful way to build on these great achievements is to help your child practise them at home. Also, there are some good apps that make learning fun while helping to develop their language skills.

See you next term.

Stage 2&3 ~ Ms. Tan

It's really wonderful that we were able to resume face-to-face learning by the 2nd half of Term 1 in this new school year. However, I would like also to commend our students for persevering with the remote learning for two and half terms despite some of the challenges encountered in an online environment, e.g., unstable internet, lack of social interactions with peers, etc.

The theme for this term is 'Celebration' which ties in with the Chinese New Year festival usually celebrated around mid-January to mid-February. It's a pity that we couldn't do the normal Chinese New Year activities, e.g., giving away red envelopes, watch the lion dance performance, etc., since we were still doing remote learning during the 1st half of the term. Nonetheless, students still learnt to say appropriate Chinese New Year greetings to one another, watched YouTube videos on the customs and practices of the Chinese New Year, including the Lantern Festival, learnt to sing a popular Chinese New Year, and did simple craft works such as making a tiger lantern. We also explored the origins and legends associated with the 12 Chinese zodiac animals, particularly the tiger zodiac sign. Furthermore, students performed simple research on their Chinese zodiac animal sign, e.g., characteristics and fortune related to the specific zodiac animal, and made comparisons with their own experiences. Since 2022 is the Year of the Tiger, we also had a lesson topic dedicated to the theme of 'Tiger'. Students learnt to use suitable verbs and adjectives to describe a tiger, and were also introduced to the popular Chinese legend, '*Wusong* Fights the Tiger'.

The other celebration topic that we studied is 'Birthday'. We first reviewed numbers and calendar dates, followed by students learning to ask and answer questions about their birth year and birthday. Students had fun designing the birthday graphs for the Chinese class. They also made a Chinese birthday card for their 'secret buddy' who will receive the card during the week when their birthday falls. We ended the term with 'Easter celebration' as students learnt the Chinese terms to describe some of the Easter festival traditions and practices and enjoyed participating in the 'Easter egg-hunt' activity with their classmates.

Students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills were honed through a variety of language practice tasks and activities such as Questions & Answers (Q&A) speaking tasks,

online games, whiteboard activities, breakout room activities, YouTube video clips, oral presentations, as well as print and online worksheets.

I would like to encourage students to regularly review the Chinese words and expressions they learnt in class whenever they have time so that they can commit what they have learnt to their long-term memory. Students should also try to practice speaking Chinese if the opportunity arises, e.g., when they visit a Chinese restaurant or a Chinese grocery shop.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday! I look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”
– Frank Smith

High School ~ Ms. Yeh

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank all parents for your efforts in continuing to encourage your children to study an additional language on top of their normal school curriculum. I would also like to congratulate all the students for their hard work working from home and then attending face-to-face learning. During this term, our high school students studied the topics of talking about Chinese and Western traditional festivals, describing festival activities and foods, and writing students' favourite festival holiday.

Our senior high school students focussed on the reading and writing tasks at the intermediate-advance level, such as giving examples of how to use the Chinese homonyms to convey meanings beyond the words. In addition to learning vocabulary and sentence patterns in the lesson topic, the intermediate students reviewed previously learnt and new contents, and strengthened their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students have also been given additional speaking practices this term to familiarise themselves with the daily conversations.

If your child can access a mobile phone, I would like to ask your permission to allow your child to download Ricciwawa, a Chinese learning aid, on their mobile phone. The best thing about this app is that it provides students with the opportunity to listen to texts. It can adjust the speeds to suit individual learning needs. Learning Chinese is not a tedious chore, and each student has their preferred learning style. Students can practice the lessons uploaded by their teachers online at any time. For example, they can search "shaopingyeh" on the app. I have uploaded 12 lessons at the beginner level. Ricciwawa does not have pop-up ads that interfere with students' learning, and it is entirely free of charge. Please go to the link at <https://www.ricciwawa.com/library> for more detail.

I hope you and your family enjoy the coming holiday.

Background Class ~ Ms. Chen

There are 6 students in the Background class, and they are divided into two groups in the class because of their different language levels/proficiency and/or age.

The theme for this semester is Celebration. We started with the introduction of major traditional Chinese festivals with a greater focus on Chinese New Year followed by the various birthday celebrations practised with a comparison between in the Eastern and Western cultures.

It is a pity that there are many traditional festival celebration activities that cannot be experienced using Zoom. However, we still tried to give the students the opportunity to experience and understand traditional Chinese customs using other mediums including YouTube clips, Wordwall online games and readers etc. In addition, the idioms of the 12 zodiac signs and the Year of the Tiger were also included in the lesson plan.

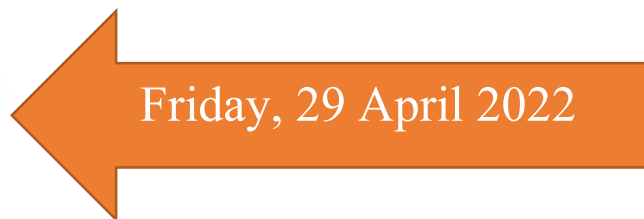
Reading and writing have always been the highlight and the to-do-list for our class. Of course, homework is also indispensable to writing, such as essay writing, Sudoku and developing invitation card, etc. I am proud to say that every student has submitted their homework weekly. Doing homework is to give students another opportunity to practice and review what they learnt in class.

In the final week of the term, students completed the 'Easter' activities. They learnt how the Chinese people celebrate the Easter festival, with a treat of an Easter egg to take home. Moreover, we had class evaluation to allow students to express their learning experiences. The evaluation provide reflection and assists with continuous improvement a future lesson plan.

PS: School is on non-operational in the final week. The evaluation will be contacted by email.



Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
5/27 AGM	7/22 20 th Anniversary	12/2 Parent/Teacher
6/3 Dragon Boat Festival	Celebration	interview
6/17 Cultural Day	9/9 HSK/YCT Exam	12/9 School Report (2)
6/24 School Report (1)	9/10 Moon Festival	End of year presentation



On behalf of staff, we wish you to have a wonderful term break and peaceful Easter!



Su-Lien Chen

Principal

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