Power of the Panel

If manpower is a precious asset to an organization, I am pleased to announce that the Panel has its assets appreciated. Our new blood serving on the Panel is Miss C. W. Ip who is a teacher of profound knowledge. She has dedication of committing herself to education. On behalf of the Panel, I would like to express our warm welcome to her.

The ELTAs this year reported to their duties on 7 Oct 2002. The two gentlemen – Alex and John have been the new stars of YKH and praised by kids from all forms. They will serve a term of 8 months. Alex comes from the UK while John comes from Canada.

Our Sovereignty

Another piece of good news to the Panel as a whole is that we had succeeded in extending our domain making an extra room – G10 under our rule. G10 was open to all members of the Panel on 7 Oct 2002. There has not been formal ceremony, nor does it have splendid decoration and yet, it soothes our agony – lack of space for oral practice.

A new experience

Miss Y. Y. Kwok and Mr. K. Y. Chan, our Information Technology co-ordinators, have been putting lots of effort in looking for English software so that we can use it at our MMLC. They got us all the chance of using the lab and, by the time our first semester ended, every single student at YKH had been to MMLC at least once. Students were all excited about the different functions of the lab and they are likely motivated spending more time on English, I bet.
Joint school Oral Practice

Preparation work for the 3rd joint school oral practice (we had it in the past 2 years) for Form Seven is in the final stage. With respect to the positive comments from students in the previous years, the Panel intended to involve more schools in the event. Mr. L. M. Lam and Mr. W. C. Lee started the preparation work in October. With the assistance of other members (as per table below), we are confident that we will have a fruitful experience.

We paired with only one school for the aforementioned practice over the past two years, but are glad to have 2 other famed schools this year, involving some 170 students and 14 teachers across all three schools. They are:

Table 1 Teachers from partnership schools

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<tr>
<th>Pooi To Middle School</th>
<th>Kit Sam School</th>
<th>LST Yu Kan Hing School</th>
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<td>Miss Jonathan Ho, Suk Yin</td>
<td>Miss Emily Mak, Kim Yee</td>
<td>Mr. Charles Lam, Lit Ming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. John Hone</td>
<td>Miss Lina Li</td>
<td>Mr. Lee, Wai Chung</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Myra Cheung</td>
<td>Mr. Chan, Bing Fui</td>
<td>Miss Chan, Siu Ling</td>
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<td>Miss Jacky Yuen</td>
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<td>Mr. Hung, Kar Ping</td>
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<td>Miss Ip, Choi Wan</td>
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<td>Miss Fiona Kwok, Yim Yee</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Miss Lam, Siu Ying</td>
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<td>Miss Teffaine, Kristine</td>
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Invitation was sent off to some designated schools in the vicinity in early October. We were able to get support from them. After tackling with the difficulties facing us such as clashes with school events of different schools, we were able to finalize our student groupings and venues.

There will be 3 rounds of practice scheduled for 1 weekend on 4 January 2003. There will be 15 teachers manning 13 different test centers.

We were all treated

Because of our first uniform test, our Halloween gathering was scheduled on 24 Oct. With the supervision of John and Alex, committee members of Student Association had decorated our main entrance with funny pumpkins and lovely witches. We were stunned when we got to school in that morning. Many of us were given candies on entering the campus and the climax was worked up when all members of the Panel and that of English Society turned up for the gathering.
Seminar on Picking up Good English

James Yiu, a linguistic expert, was here at YKH conducting a seminar to our students. The Panel was glad to have language person sharing with us ways of learning English. Mr. Yiu brought students’ attention to the five basic rules of sentence structures and the technique of articulation i.e. linking the sound of the last alphabet of a word to the subsequent one. He brought it out with simple expressions and in lively tones. Students enjoyed the session although it was a bit long.

Open lecture

The head of our panel, Mr. L. M. Lam, took the lead to conduct an open lecture on 1st November in response to the implementation of fostering peer observation culture. The lecture was a successful one. With joint efforts of all panel members, the lecture design, materials used and the delivery were satisfactory.

It was a major leap in the context of opening up our classrooms and welcoming visitors. It is good in the sense that we can observe how our colleagues handle situations or teach a particular topic which may cause headache to us.

Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Festival 2002

The arenas on which students across all schools gather together and pursue honours of English speaking opened again on 11 December. A record high of 66 kids were amongst the participants entering Solo Verse Speaking, Prose Reading, Bible Reading, News Presentation and Dramatic Dialogue. Many teachers on the Panel were involved.

Lemon Lam, Man Ting of F.3C was able to put herself the second best on the event she entered. Miss L. W. Chow is, obviously, the one who had been doing a lot in training Lemon. Mok, Mei Ling of F.6B got the honours of winning the third place in Girls Solo Verse Speaking. Miss Kristine Teffaine had certainly passed on much of speaking technique to Mok.
The profits of joint efforts

An action research titled Exploring Practical Ways to Develop the Experience Dimension of Students was conducted by the English Panel of YKH and Curriculum Development Inspectorate (CDI) in December this year. The sub-programme being worked on this time was named Using Christmas Poems to Help Students Explore Feelings and Thoughts. The materials so produced were then, used in 3 lessons by Miss L. W. Chow who had been working closely with CDI under the programme. All members of the Panel who observed the lessons agreed unanimously that the lessons were successful ones. The sharing session on 19th December was an opportunity for core teachers from other schools and Miss L. W. Chow sharing their experience of incorporating language arts into curriculum. Dr. Angela Mok from Hong Kong Institute of Education was there, too and gave a speech on school-based planning of language arts activities in the English curriculum.