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ESF News (September 2015)

in ESF News - parents, staff and public

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14 September 2015

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ESF welcomes new teachers and Board members



New ESF teachers participated in ESF's amazing-race-style "Treasure Hunt" that enabled them to familiarise with public transport and explore popular sightseeing locations.

The new term got off to a great start by us welcoming 103 new teachers to the team. There was further change across ESF with 69 of our teachers moving into new or promoted roles within the organisation. Of the new teachers, 39 teachers were already living here in Hong Kong and 64 teachers came from a wide range of countries including the UK, UAE, New Zealand, China, Australia and Canada.

Following an election we welcome two new parent members to the ESF Board of Governors. Dr Dannis Au will become the parent member, taking up the role in November when the position for a Category 1 parent member, which is a parent of a child in an ESF primary or secondary school becomes vacant. Mrs Dayna Lim Cheung takes up the position of the parent member in Category 2 which is a parent of a child supported through SEN provision from immediate effect.

Launch of ESF Strategic Plan 2015-2020

ESF is moving into a new era. To prepare for this, ESF has engaged in an extensive strategic planning process involving members from the advisory committees and the ESF Board. After a year's work, the refreshed ESF vision and mission along with the ESF Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 have now been approved by the Board and is ready for launch.

Our strategic intent is to be a key driver of best practice in teaching and learning. This is achieved through delivery of four strategic goals under the four pillars – Education, Organisation, Communications and Financial Sustainability. Through creating joyful learning environments and having exceptional teachers, we aim to inspire creativity and nurture the global citizens and leaders of the future.

Town-hall meetings to share the plan with the ESF community have been organised. Interested parties are most welcome to join. Details are as follows:



1. Tuesday, 22 September King George V School
2. Thursday, 24 September West Island School
3. Monday, 5 October ESF Centre
4. Tuesday, 13 October Renaissance College

All presentations will be held from **7 pm to 8 pm**. If you wish to attend, please register at: www.esf.edu.hk/stratplan-mtgs2015

Water tested at ESF schools

As you may know, over the last few months fresh water sources across Hong Kong have been found to contain significantly high levels of lead.

Over the summer, we took samples from fresh water sources in our schools. From over 300 fresh water sources tested, only 4 samples were found to have levels slightly above the HK Government guidelines. KGV, Sha Tin College, South Island School and West Island School each had one sample with levels slightly above the guidelines. All other fresh water sources in these schools were within the guidelines.

The health and safety of our children, and our staff, is always our number one priority. In this regard, we have taken immediate steps to shut down the four sources whilst action is being taken to ensure levels are within safety standards.

187 graduates awarded ESF Chairman's Awards for Excellence 2015



The ESF Chairman's Awards for Excellence 2015 was held on Wednesday, 26 August at Sha Tin College to recognise the outstanding performance of 187 ESF graduates. More than 450 students, parents and teachers attended the award ceremony to celebrate the students' outstanding achievements.

Abraham Shek, Chairman of ESF, praised the students for their achievements in both academic and non-academic aspects. "ESF has a tradition of excellence in academics, sport and cultural activities. Students leave ESF as confident, well-educated and internationally-minded individuals who are equipped to play constructive roles in our global society," he said.

The award-winning graduates included those with outstanding achievement in Leadership, Commitment and Contribution to Service, Embodying the Spirit and Values of the school, Sporting Achievement and Creativity; as well as in the international Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma the Applied Learning Programme.

Three students have received the inaugural Carlson Tong Award, recognising their outstanding achievement in the bilingual diploma. They have achieved the maximum 7 points for two languages, both of which studied as first language.

More photos can be viewed on the online photo gallery [HERE](#).

ESF celebrates outstanding exam results



From left to right: Back row: Ellen Hao, Jamie Wong and Claudia Tam;

Front row: Kylie Cheung, Narumi Wong, Venice Luk, Stephanie Cheung, Glenda Xu, Sharon Cheng, Jane Wright and Ka Chun Louie

WATCH VIDEO

ESF schools continue to achieve outstanding results in external examinations. Over the summer, we celebrated excellent IB Diploma, Applied Learning and GCSE/IGCSE results. The results for the IB Middle Years Programme will be announced later.

IB Diploma

934 Year 13 students completed the IB Diploma in May. 98% of students achieved the full IB Diploma, with 61.5% achieving 35 or more IB points and 24.9% achieving 40 or more points. The average points score for students is 35.6 total points and the average grade per subject is 5.6 points.

We are extremely proud of all our students, knowing that they have all worked hard to achieve their best. 17 ESF students achieved the maximum 45 points – setting a new ESF record. There are only 160 students worldwide who

have achieved this in 2015. They include:

- Island School: Jane Wright, Claudia Tam and Brian Wong;
- KGV: Narumi Wong and Priyanshi Ajesh Shah;
- Renaissance College: Sharon Cheng;
- Sha Tin College: Justin Cheng, Stephanie Cheung, Ellen Hao and Jamie Wong;
- South Island School: Ka Chun Louie, Daniel Monteiro and Ming-Yu Yang;
- West Island School: Kylie Cheung, Grace Chin, Venice Luk and Glenda Xu.

Applied Learning Pathway

94 Year 13 students from KGV, IS, SIS and WIS successfully completed the Applied Learning Pathway. These students followed personalised pathways that involved the Business and Technology Education Council award (BTEC), or BTEC with a combination of either IB subject courses and/or AS-levels. BTEC subjects studied include Art and Design; Business; Media; Engineering; Performing Arts; Travel and Tourism and Sport.

For the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma, 52% of entries were awarded a *distinction* or above and 74% *merit* or above. For the BTEC Level 3 Diploma, 60% of entries were awarded a *double distinction* or above and 81% *double merit* or above. For the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma, 55% of entries were awarded a *triple distinction* or above and 90% *triple merit* or above.

GCSE/IGCSE exams

Approximately 1,000 Year 11 students from King George V School, Island School, Sha Tin College, South Island School and West Island School participated in the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and its international equivalent the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). 55% of all examinations were awarded either A* or A grades and 92% awarded A* - C grades. This is the seventh consecutive year that more than 50% of examinations were awarded A* or A grades.

Congratulations to all our students and their teachers on an outstanding set of results in this year's external examinations. We wish all our graduating students well in the future.

For more details of the examination results, please click [HERE](#).

Discovery College student artwork featured in IB magazine



What will the classroom look like in 2030? Discovery College (DC) Year 12 student Susan Park's artwork was selected by the IB World magazine for the front cover of the September issue among competitors from worldwide.

view the digital copy of the magazine with Susan's artwork on the cover [HERE](#).

Island School teacher presents maths book at IB conference



Jennifer Wathall, Head of Mathematics at Island School, presented her soon-to-be published

To continually enhance learning and teaching approaches in ESF schools, many of our teachers attend international conferences. At the IB Americas Annual Conference held in Chicago this July, Jennifer Wathall, Head of Mathematics at Island School, proudly presented ideas of her soon-to-be published book – "Concept-Based Mathematics: Teaching for Deep Understanding".

Speaking at the conference, Jennifer outlined what she believes to be better ways of learning mathematics, through concept-based curriculum and instruction. "Mathematics is inherently a conceptual language of relationships which lends itself to investigating principles and generalisations," she explained.

book "Concept-Based Mathematics: Teaching for Deep Understanding" at an IB Conference in Chicago this July.

Let's make our schools greener

A number of ESF schools have been applying for School Green subsidies from the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department to make our school environments greener. The amount of subsidies range from HK\$2,000 to HK\$400,000 for schools to purchase plants, organise gardening activities or install environmental friendly lightings or other facilities.



Sha Tin College uses the subsidy to help with some of the greening projects and also for the Lunchtime 'Green Fingers' activity.

The Bradbury School Eco Dudes received HK\$11,000 for purchasing more fruit trees to help with propagating VOC plants for the classrooms, planting herbs and shrubs and for purchasing a rotating composting bin.

Central applications for Year 1, Year 7 and K1

If you have friends who are interested in applying for ESF schools, please let them know that the applications for admission in August 2016 are now being received for Year 1 (children born in 2011) and Year 7 (children born in 2005) till 30 September.

The central application period for K1 entry in August 2016 to ESF International Kindergartens, including the new Tung Chung campus, will begin on 1 October 2015 and will run until 31 October 2015.

If they wish to gain interview priority, the Individual and Corporate Nomination Rights schemes provide a fast-track route for children into ESF schools, providing they meet the entry requirements. For details, please refer to [HERE](http://www.esf.edu.hk/esf-nomination-rights).
<http://www.esf.edu.hk/esf-nomination-rights>

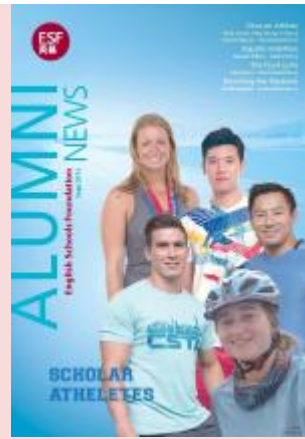
ESF Alumni News is coming soon

The ESF Alumni News September issue will be published on www.esf.edu.hk/alumni soon. You may also pick up a copy at your child's school office.

In this issue, we have interviewed some inspiring mentors: Ricky Cheuk (KGV) and Edward Haynes (West Island School) are ex-Hong Kong rugby team players and are now running a gym and other businesses

together. Hannah Wilson (Island School) was a Hong Kong Olympic swimmer and she is now a swim coach; Julia Mason (West Island School) is now cycling from the UK to Hong Kong to raise awareness about food wastage. Keith Rumjahn (South Island School) runs a sports app company which produces virtual playbooks for basketball coaches. These alumni have extended their passion in sport to their work, career and community.

We also have the "class note" session which shares updates from alumni and the "what's happening" session which shares alumni reunions and events.



ESF Educational Services -- our website has a new look



ESF Educational Services is pleased to announce that www.esf.org.hk has a new look and some upgraded features. The new website has improved navigation, more information on our programmes and a new search function to make it easier to search by course and location. The online booking function has been upgraded with the introduction of a shopping cart enabling you to review selected courses before completing the application form. We hope you like the new website and find all the information you need on our great after school sports, language and enrichment courses.

Join ESF language enrichment and sports programmes

A number of language enrichment and sports programmes are available this term. Please check them out from our website [HERE](http://www.org.esf.hk). www.org.esf.hk



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The next ESF News will be published in December 2015

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