



ALUMNI

English Schools Foundation

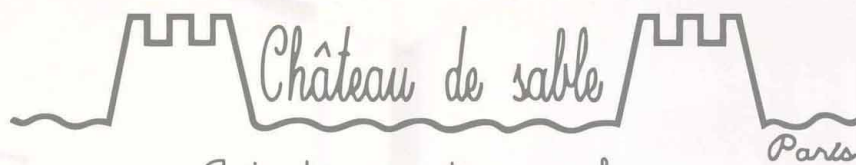
NEWS

Dec 2011

**Eco-friendly businessman
commits to giving back**

**Architect helps build opportunities
for the next generation**

**IB high-achiever looks forward
to expanding his learning**



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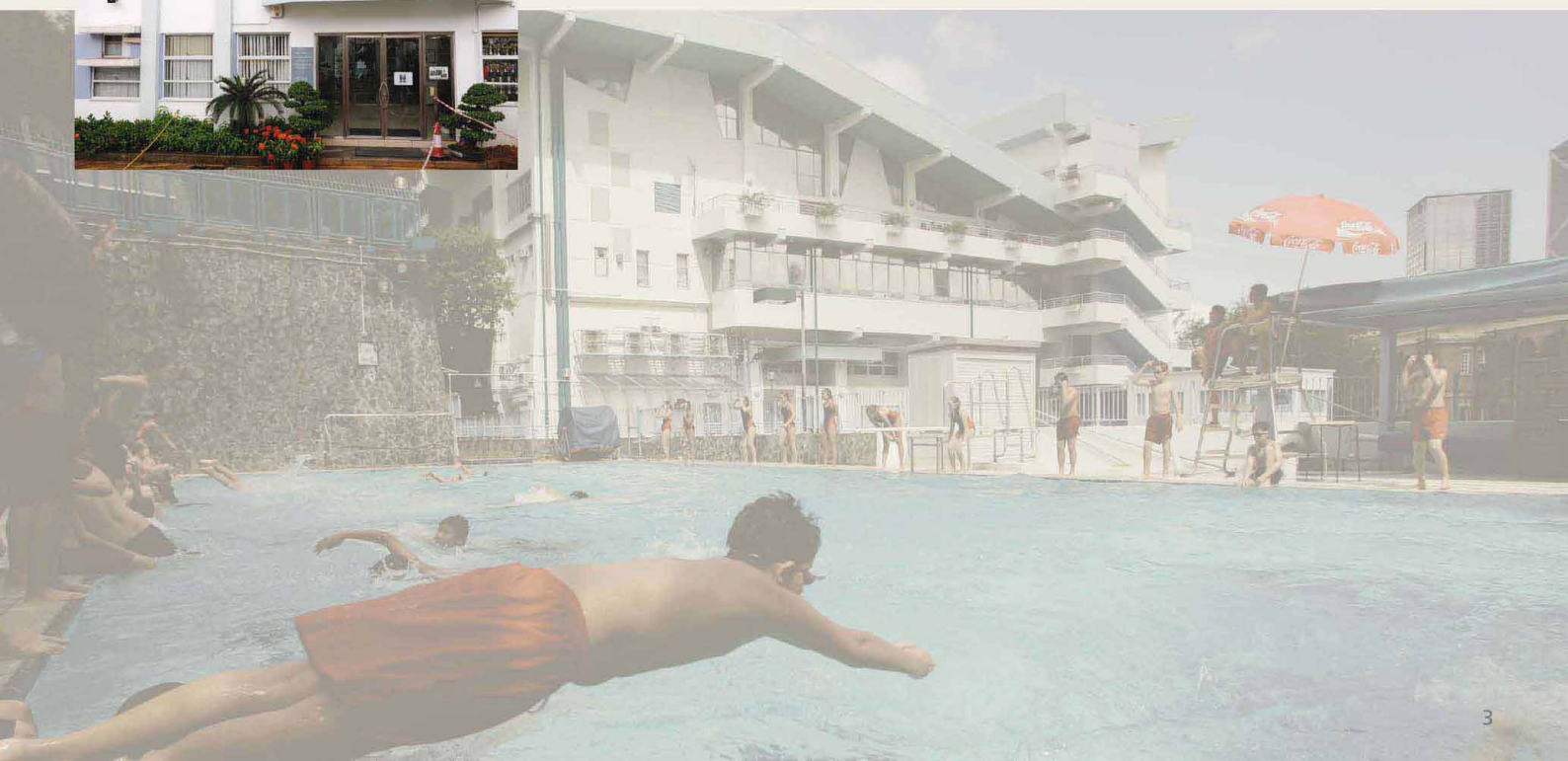
Chateau de sable Hong Kong





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It gives me great pleasure to write the foreword for the first *ESF Alumni News*.

As a father of two children who graduated from ESF schools, it always warms my heart to hear wonderful stories of our alumni.

Since I was elected Chairman in May, I have had the opportunity to meet a number of students, staff, recent graduates and alumni. I have discovered that besides the lasting friendships and fond memories, there is a real sense of pride in being an ESF graduate.

This newsletter recognises the outstanding achievements and continued contributions to ESF schools by a group of exceptional individuals. In this issue we'll hear about alumni who take time out of their busy schedules to serve as members of school councils and advisory committees. Many of our young graduates are spread around the world enjoying successful careers – others are furthering their education, we would love to hear from you. This issue will feature an interview with a former Island School student currently studying in the United States.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a healthy and happy festive season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Carlson Tong'.

Carlson Tong, JP
Chairman
English Schools Foundation



Welcome to the first issue of the *ESF Alumni News*!

The Foundation has 21 schools and kindergartens attended by 17,000 students. Over the years our schools have cultivated alumni relations by collecting the contact details of their graduates, hosting reunions and fundraising events, and establishing an online social network. This year we have decided to publish the *ESF Alumni News*, a new quarterly magazine that aims to celebrate the success and diversity of ESF students.

The objective of the *ESF Alumni News* is to provide a communication platform for students, recent graduates, current and former staff, alumni in Hong Kong and different corners of the world to establish networks and to keep up with the news and development of schools. We encourage our alumni to share their stories and to give back to their schools in terms of supporting events, offering mentorship and sharing their experience.

In this issue, we bring you interviews with alumni who attended three different ESF schools and have been engaging in school activities and alumni relations. They share their recollections and tell us about the role they play in the future development of schools.

Thank you to all of the alumni who contributed their time for the interviews as well as individual schools that submitted news. Anyone wishing to provide information for the next issue to be published in March 2012 is welcome to contact us.

Enjoy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Heather Du Quesnay'.

Heather Du Quesnay
Chief Executive Officer
English Schools Foundation

The ESF Alumni News is a quarterly magazine published by:
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www.esf.edu.hk/alumni

We welcome your comments and enquiries regarding alumni matters and development.

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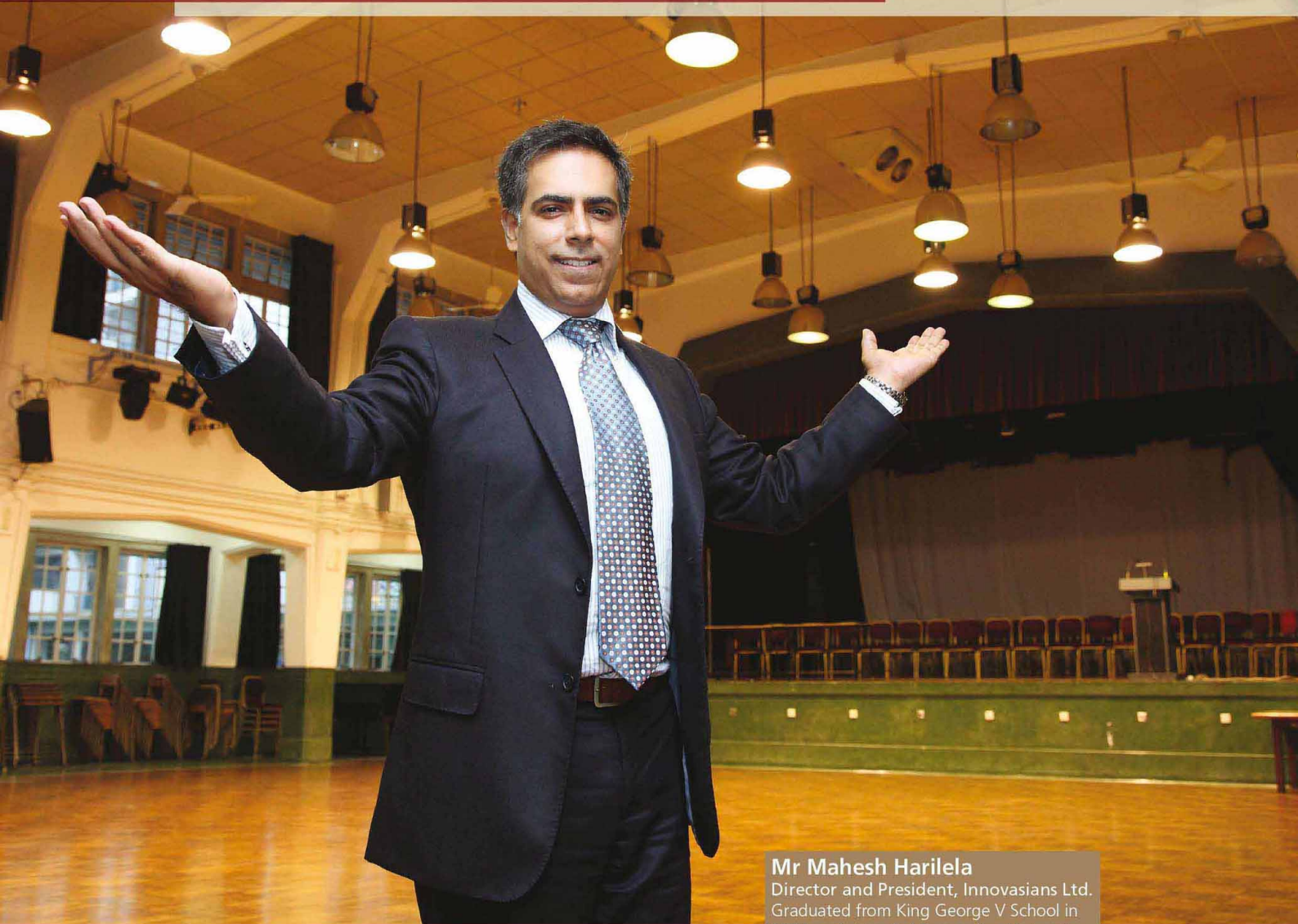
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Printed on recycled paper.

A Passion to Serve



Mr Mahesh Harilela

Director and President, Innovasians Ltd.
Graduated from King George V School in 1981 and attended Pepperdine University in the states.

Mahesh Harilela attended King George V School (KGV) from 1975 to 1981 and has been the Chairman of the school's Strategic Development Committee since January 2009. Here, we talk to him about his schooldays; his passion for business and serving the community and about the important work undertaken by the Committee.

A Story of Success

Mr Harilela's family has deep and enduring links with Hong Kong and KGV. The family moved from India to China and then to Hong Kong. It's a rags to riches story. Several generations of his family were educated at the school and his three daughters are all current or former KGVers.

Just as Hong Kong has faced many challenges and changes, so too must KGV adapt to changing local and global circumstances, according to Mr Harilela. "Education is a constantly

changing and evolving paradigm and ESF has managed that very well. Since I was at school, there have been huge changes in the education process and the curriculum. We now have to balance academic studies with the arts and sport."

The school's ability to adapt is evidenced by its success in switching from GCE A-levels to the IB system in just two years. When asked about the most important value that KGV instills in its students, Mr Harilela has no hesitation in citing community spirit. "Earlier this year there was a charity



Mr Harilela is the Chairman of KGV's Strategic Development Committee

drive to raise funds for orphanages. This is one of many outreach projects students undertake that engage with society - not only in Hong Kong but globally. The students create their own charitable organisations. They know they're privileged and they want to give back. The school nurtures and encourages that."

Hardware and Software

The Strategic Development Committee is all about hardware and software, said Mr Harilela. "The hardware is the buildings and the facilities. There will be two new blocks costing HK\$420 million (HK\$252 million funded by ESF) and we're aiming to create a world-class Learning Resource Centre for

current students. That will cost HK\$35 million. We're also planning a HK\$100 million indoor stadium and swimming pool. We're developing a fundraising strategy with our Community Development Manager, Ruth Barnes. This is something neither we, nor ESF have never done before."

"On the software side, it's all about the human touch. In February 2011 we held a community discussion with students and parents so they could share their thoughts about issues the school needed to address. Ed Wickins, the Principal, has done a good job of creating a community spirit that enables everyone to participate."

The Committee is also planning to establish a scholarship for worthy

students. "Some kids are academically capable but don't have the financial resources to pursue their academic and career goals in other countries. Overseas scholarships are highly competitive so we hope to create our own that will enable a graduating student to receive a grant towards their tertiary education."

A Greener Future

As for his varied business interests, Mr Harilela describes himself as "a tree-hugger without hugging trees." After studying and working in the US, he returned to Hong Kong in 2007 and built and sold a successful company. In 2009, he and a friend launched a new business to import Hawaiian Spring

water into Hong Kong in partnership with the French actor Jean Reno.

Determined to be socially responsible, the company collects empty plastic water bottles and recycles the PET plastic. "It's converted into yarn and made into fabric for promotional gifts for various brands. We've also expanded into recycling rice husks and straw waste to make drinking cups. I've created a fund that invests in new bio-diverse technologies, for example taking agricultural waste and converting it into other products."

Giving Back

That sense of social responsibility carries over into Mr Harilela's volunteer work as Chairman of the Strategic Development Committee. "Hong Kong has been good to my family. We've enjoyed many privileges, so what I've always wanted to do is participate in giving back to KGV. It's a great school, and I have very positive memories of my time there as a student."

"Some of the students and teachers I knew back then are still my friends to



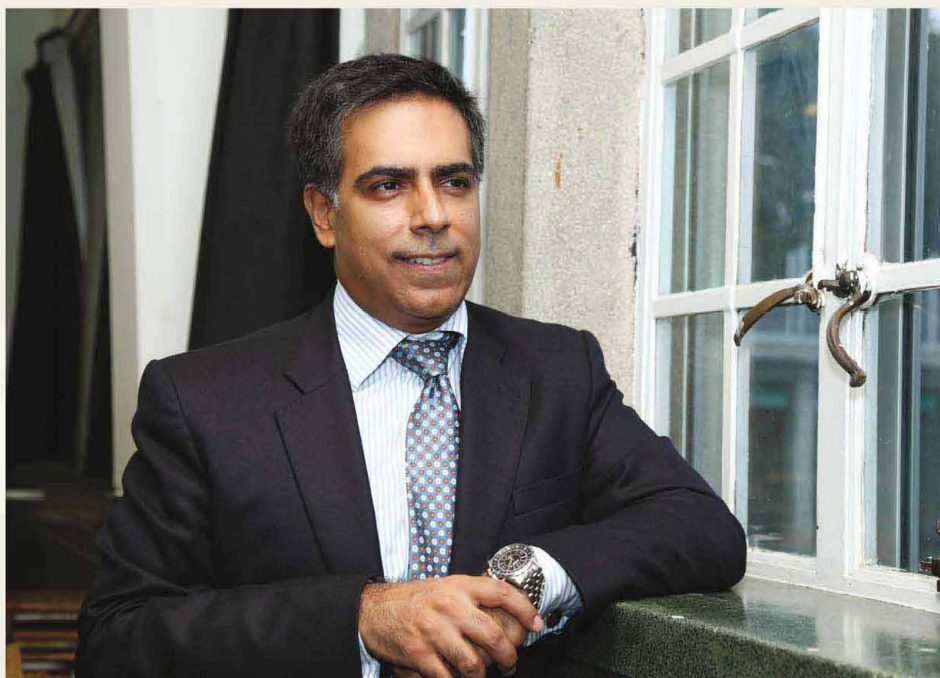
Mr Harilela and family members attended the eldest daughter's graduation in Pepperdine University earlier this year.

this day. I encourage everyone to give back. It's not just about money; it's about giving your time and trying to make a difference. And it's not about the individual; it's a collective effort."

Calling All Alumni

KGV's Strategic Development Committee and Alumni Association hope to bring former students

together. "On the KGV website, we're asking all alumni to register. (There's no charge.) We want to create an identity of which we can all be proud – not just for the time that we spend at school, but forever. We would like today's graduates to come back in 10 years with fond memories of their time here and to be proud of KGV." ■



In a final message to everyone who has attended the school, Mr Harilela exhorted: "Believe in what you gained from your time at KGV. Come back and give something towards the development and advancement of the school. That's really all we ask for."

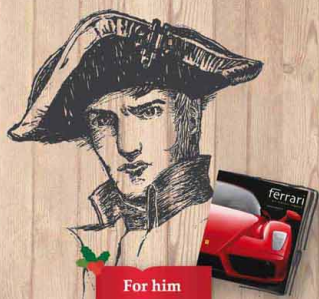
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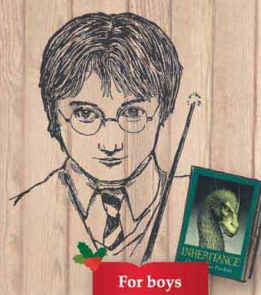
this Christmas



For boys



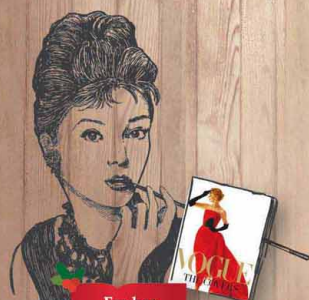
For him



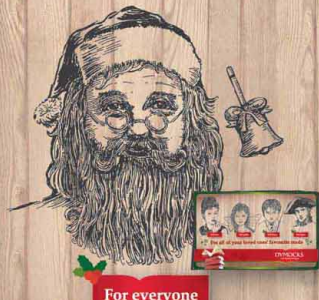
For boys



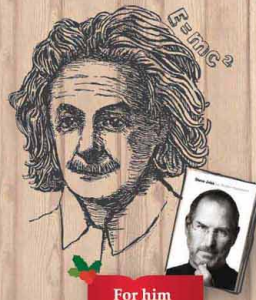
For girls



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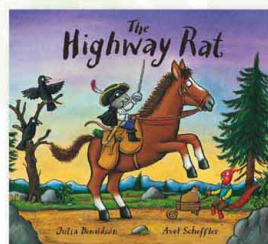
For everyone



For him



For girls



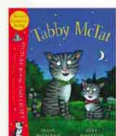
The Highway Rat
Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler
9781407124377

Kids' favourites Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler return with a new story. The Highway Rat steals from everyone, even his own horse! But has he met his match, in the form of a wise duck?

深受兒童愛戴的作者 Julia Donaldson 及 Axel Scheffler，又為孩子們帶來新喜悅。公路小偷 Highway Rat 向每一個人埋手，能偷的都偷，連自己的馬也不放過！可是他有否遇上那隻聰明鴨子，一個跟他棋鼓相當的敵手？



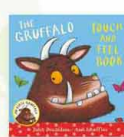
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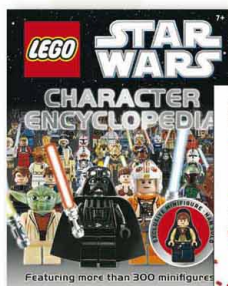


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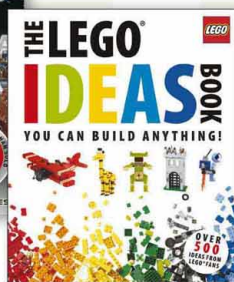


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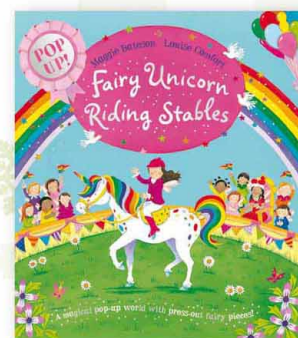


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Fairy Unicorn Riding Stables
Maggie Bateson & Louise Comfort
9780230743311

From the creators of My Fairy Treehouse comes a new fairy pop-up world – with their unicorns at the riding school! With press-out unicorns and jumps, stage your own riding show!

My Fairy Treehouse 創作人的新作，有關一個立體仙子世界，及一群在騎術學校接收訓練的獨角獸！書上有能擠出的紙板獨角獸和跳欄，讓大家一顯身手，製作自己的騎術表演！



Available November



The Hunger Games Trilogy Suzanne Collins

Soon to be a major movie, The Hunger Games is set in a post apocalyptic world where the poor fight to the death in the Games for the entertainment of the rich. The complete trilogy is available as a boxset or individually. Also look out for the Unofficial Companion for inside information on the characters and the themes of the story.

即將成為大電影的The Hunger Games，以一個後末世作為故事背景。窮人的生死是有錢人的娛樂，遊戲中窮人為求生存要拼死作戰。這三部曲有套裝版及獨立冊。快將出版的還有Unofficial Companion，透露有關故事人物和主題的內幕消息。

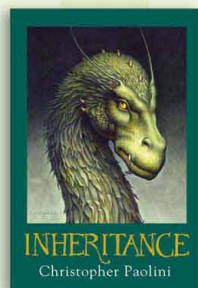
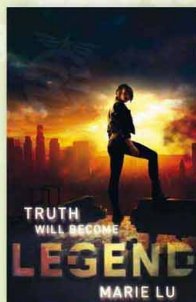
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Legend Marie Lu

June is a teen prodigy whose brother is murdered in a plague hospital. Day is one of the country's most wanted criminals, determined to steal the antidote to the plague to save his family. Did he kill June's brother? She will stop at nothing to hunt him down, but what she discovers will change everything.

June是個年青的奇才，她的兄長死於一所治療瘟疫的醫院裡，是被殺害的。Day是國家的通緝要犯，他為救家人的命，不顧一切地去偷瘟疫解劑。是否Day殺了June兄長？June會不惜一切地追捕Day。可是，她快要發現的事情，將會改變一切。

Available November

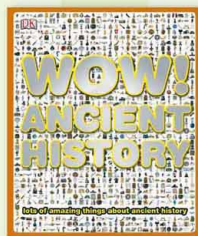


Inheritance Christopher Paolini

The four-book series that began with Eragon now reaches its conclusion. The fate of civilisation lies on the shoulders of Eragon and his dragon Saphira, in the final confrontation with Galbatorix.

由Eragon開始，每四冊為一個故事系列的年青人小說，終於到達了尾聲。與Galbatorix最終的一戰，決定了文明社會的命運，Eragon和他的飛龍Saphira身負重任。

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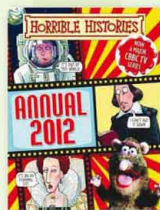
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引人入勝的歷史叢書，介紹古代盛世，及人類社會的發展，加上內容風趣搞笑的年刊Horrible Histories，令學習歷史再也不枯燥乏味。

All Available November



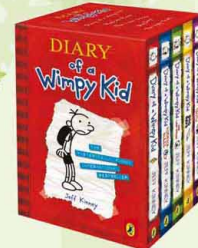
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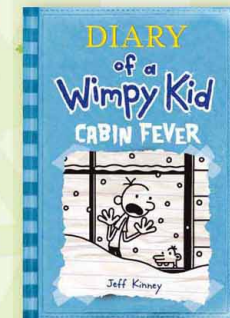
9781407129631

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Cabin Fever Jeff Kinney

The Heffleys are snowed in for the holidays! How are Greg and the family going to get on with each other all cooped up together? Will it bring them together, or will the tensions between them overflow? Also look out for the Wimpy Kid boxset, containing the first five books.



9780141342887



假期中的大風雪把Heffley一家困在屋裡！究竟Greg和家人，如何能夠在一個擠密的空間中相處過渡？這會令他們親近多些，還是會讓他們間的不和湧現？還有首五冊的套裝Wimpy Kid供大家選購

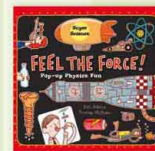
Both Available November



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四冊令孩子大開眼界的優秀書籍，展示科學的奧秘，有論證，有數據字，亦有記錄了實驗詳細指引的Science in a Box。小心，不要爆破任何東西！

All Available November



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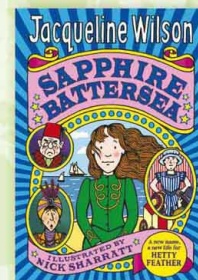


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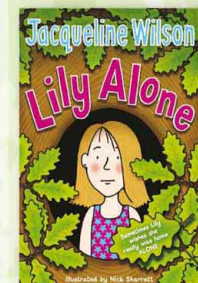
Sapphire Battersea Jacqueline Wilson

The story of Hetty Feather continues. Now reunited with her mother after a childhood in foster care, Hetty renames herself Sapphire and begins work as a maid. All seems well, but trouble still lies ahead.

Hetty Feather的故事延續。在寄養服務下長大的她，最終可以與生母重聚。Hetty改名為Sapphire，當上女僕的工作，展開新生。一切看似安好，但麻煩卻快將來臨。



9780857530707
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12 Convenient Locations

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
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2117 0360 | Lyndhurst Terrace
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| Citygate
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	7-Day 6-Night (CX)	Stay 6 Pay 4	HK\$15,200 - HK\$16,700	HK\$10,840 - HK\$11,620
17 Dec 2011 - 01 Jan 2012 14 - 28 Jan 2012	6-Day 5-Night (CX)	Stay 5 Pay 4	HK\$16,000 - HK\$28,600	HK\$11,320 - HK\$19,500
	8-Day 7-Night (CX)	Stay 7 Pay 5	HK\$18,300 - HK\$32,600	HK\$12,700 - HK\$21,900

Club Med Yabuli, Heilongjiang, China

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Building a Career



Abigail Tam (譚錦儀)

Design Manager (Architectural), Dragages.
Graduated from Sha Tin College in 1994
and then attended University of Newcastle and
University College London

Abigail Tam knew from an early age that she wanted to be an architect and at 35 she still finds it a rewarding career. It hasn't always been easy however. Ms Tam has fought successfully to prove herself in a world where the 'glass ceiling' has restricted opportunities for women to gain promotion in traditionally male career areas.

A Blooming Architect

"It's very tough being female in this industry," said Ms Tam. "Men have certain expectations. They assume that women don't want to work on muddy construction sites so you constantly have to prove yourself. Gradually though, more female architects are coming into the industry and breaking down these outdated perceptions and stereotypes."

"I currently work at the Kai Tak cruise terminal site. It's a challenging job. I've been working here for half a year and my role is to manage all the architectural issues. I previously worked

in architectural consultancy for 10 years but I recently went over to the 'dark side,' as architects say. Now I'm learning what it's like to be on the front line of the construction industry."

Ms Tam was born in Toronto but came to Hong Kong when she was five years old. She went to Beacon Hill Primary School and then attended Sha Tin College from 1987 to 1994.

"From year nine onwards I knew that I wanted to be an architect. It was always something that I felt inspired by. It all began in the CDT class - that's *Craft, Design and Technology*. I was sure I had the talent in terms of drawing and being able to perceive things architecturally."

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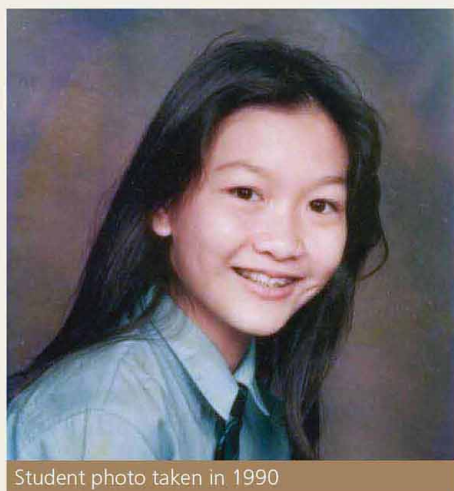
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Ms Tam studied maths, geography and graphical communication for her 'A' levels before heading to the University of Newcastle to study for a degree in architectural studies. She describes this as 'part one' of her architecture academic training. She returned to Hong Kong for a year of work experience before going back to the UK to continue her architectural studies – which she describes as part two – at University College London. She completed her course in 2001.

Ms Tam worked in the UK for a further four years and qualified as an architect. She returned to Hong Kong in 2005 and currently works for a French contractor, Dragages.



Student photo taken in 1990

The two teachers who inspired this budding architect at Sha Tin College were Marshall Hughes and John Brennan. "They made me see things in a different way and they were great teachers. They opened my eyes to the use of perspective – seeing things in 3D. Not everyone has an eye for that. When I talk to you about architecture you may not be able to visualise something in 3D. I'm able to, thanks to Marshall and John."

A Devoted Volunteer

Links with Sha Tin College remain strong for Ms Tam. She is a member of the School Council.

"While on the School Council, one of my tasks has been to start a Sha Tin College alumni group, as that is something we've lacked in the past. We're in the process of setting up the official Sha Tin College website. It's a community for alumni and former teachers to keep in touch," she explains

In 2014, it will be 20 years since Ms Tam left the college and she's already preparing a reunion event for her fellow alumni and teachers. "We're planning to include a ball and lots of other events. It will be a one-week programme and I've still got plenty of time to plan!"

Her connections with the college are not restricted to meeting up with old schoolmates however. Ms Tam and other members of the Council are keen to share their knowledge by offering career advice to help students decide on future studies and career paths.



Abigail with a group of staff and alumni from Sha Tin College

The Next Generation

When Ms Tam was at Sha Tin College, it still had a relatively small student population. In year 12 and 13, she recalls there was a maximum of 40 students in each year group. She remembers the teachers being conscientious and caring. One of the advantages of attending an international school is that "these days I can communicate with almost anyone. I'm not shy."

"It's important that the alumni community help the current students at Sha Tin College. For example, we get involved in mentoring. At higher education evenings we arrange for a number of alumni to talk to students about careers in architecture, medicine and so on."

There were only a few computers at Sha Tin College when Ms Tam studied there - a far cry from the computer-oriented classrooms of today. But she also feels that students need to improve their interaction skills

instead of finding their answers electronically. "They don't ask enough questions," she says. "They're too quick to look things up on Google which means they don't talk to one another. Students can also be quite spoilt these days and are often not ready to go out into the workforce."

Ms Tam has been mentoring two students at her office, where they can learn about being an architect and see if it is a career for them. She's keen to see students make the right choices for themselves, and not make decisions based on pressure from parents or their peers.

"I keep emphasising to the kids: It's your life - just make sure you do something you like." ■

A New Page

Myron Lam achieved a maximum 45 points in his International Baccalaureate (IB) this summer and he's looking forward to heading to Brown University in Rhode Island in the United States to continue his studies.

Myron is proof that you can get excellent grades and still maintain a healthy balance of school work and extra-curricular activities. What might surprise many people is that Myron only has a vague idea of what he would like to do in the future - and his parents don't mind.



Myron Lam (藍灝澄)

Graduated from Island School in 2011 and is now attending Brown University

Follow Your Heart

Myron has always been allowed to follow his own interests and make his own decisions in life. "My parents are really against the idea of telling me which profession I should go into," he said. "They want me to explore for myself. I'm really grateful for that. I think that's a little different from other traditional Chinese parents."

This relaxed attitude stands in contrast to Tiger Mothers, exemplified by US

author Amy Chua, who would be horrified if their children didn't have a clear career path already mapped out.

"I've been thinking at this point about maybe doing something with business, but also with the media or even acting. So I'll have to see how it turns out at Brown."

The budding actor from Island School chose Brown because of its open curriculum and reputation as a 'happy school.' "Brown really allows you to explore the things that you want. So

I can go on to study subjects that I've never touched before."

"To succeed in the IB you have to be good at juggling. For me the hard part wasn't the content but rather the quantity of the work. It was juggling the six subjects and extended essay, plus college essays for admissions and extra-curricular activities. I had to get my priorities right."

"You may have some nights with a little less sleep," he says, but you will pull through.

School Life at Island School

At higher level, Myron studied economics, geography and Chinese and at standard level, biology, maths and English. His favourite subject is economics "because you take real life issues and you actually think about them from a theoretical perspective. I like the idea of trying to look at a real-life problem, finding solutions and then evaluating those solutions and thinking why they might not work."



Island School Singing Contest

For his CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) section of the IB, Myron turned first to his passion for acting and last year achieved a grade 8 for drama from the London Academy of Music and Performing Arts. He also participated in speech festivals. He doesn't class himself as a particularly athletic person so the 'Action' part of CAS was good for his health!

While he didn't feel he was fit enough for the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, he and some friends trained for the 10 km event. "We relied on self-discipline as we had to get up early on Saturday mornings and train. We pushed one another."

For 'Service,' Myron travelled to both China and Cambodia with his church to carry out community activities. He also started the Island School Anti-Drug Action Group.

A New Page

Currently Myron is enjoying the prospect of stretching his mind and finding out about new subjects. He enjoys acting but may choose instead to set up his own business with a focus on the community.



Cambodia Mission Trip 2010

A year ago he went to Brown University for a course called *Changing Business – Becoming a Social Entrepreneur*. The course provided him with the opportunity to meet many social entrepreneurs in the United States.

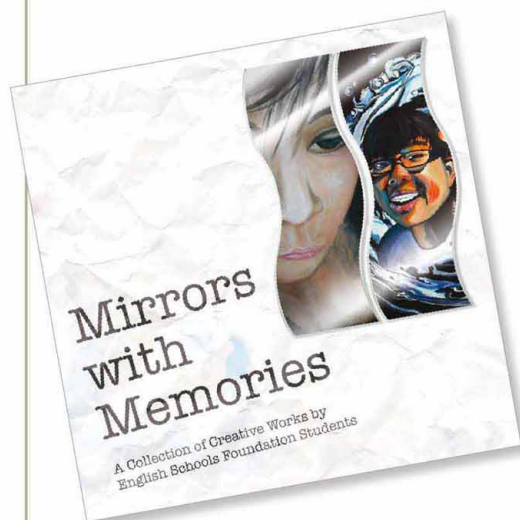


"Brown really allows you to explore the things that you want. So I can go on to explore other subjects that I've never touched before."

Myron wants us all to think more carefully about the products we consume. He gives the example of a coffee firm that uses Fair Trade coffee beans and ensures that its workers are not exploited. Part of the revenue is donated to charity and their cups are biodegradable, a business that can give something back to society. ■



Myron with his family in Brown University



Mirrors with Memories

is a collection of creative writing and artworks from the secondary students of ESF, demonstrating their creative skills and abilities.

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All proceeds (after deduction of production cost) will be donated to Bring Me A Book, a charity that promotes family literacy by providing access to the best children's books.

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We are keen to build links with the alumni of all ESF schools so that you can find out what your old school friends are up to. Our aim is to enhance relations between alumni and their former schools.

The following websites have been set up for former students to enrol as alumni of their schools and network with their schoolmates.

Island School Alumni Association	http://alumni.island.edu.hk
South Island School Alumni Association	http://alumni.sis.edu.hk
KGV Alumni Association	http://alumni.kgv.edu.hk
West Island School	https://wis.site-ym.com
Peak School	http://www.ps.edu.hk/about-us/alumni

JOCKEY CLUB SARAH ROE SCHOOL



JCSRS is planning a charity Fashion Gala on the evening of Friday 16th March 2012. The aim is to raise funds

to purchase new assistive technology and to provide an iPad for every student. This very special event will be held at a suitably prestigious venue and will include formal cocktails, dinner, an auction, prize draws, followed by the fashion show itself. There will be professional models contributing their glamorous expertise to the event, featuring pieces by a high fashion brand. The models will be partnered

by a select few of our JCSRS students who will be showcasing children's couture.

If you would like to support the gala by sponsorship or donation, please contact:

Robert Szorenyi, Vice Principal
Jockey Club Sarah Roe School
Tel: 2761 9893
Email: robert.szorenyi@jcsrs.esf.edu.hk

PEAK SCHOOL

Peak School PTA held a Gala Dinner at Café Deco on Saturday 12th November to round off celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Peak School. Almost 200 Peak School Alumni, staff & parents both past and present joined together for an elegant evening's entertainment.

The photo montage board of Peak School classes through the years was a

talking point and many alumni spotted themselves in the pictures.

The raffle raised money for the Centenary Fund which was established this year to provide a specialist Artist in Residence for the children and teachers at Peak School to enrich their learning.

If you wish to contact the Peak School PTA, please email pta@peakschool.net.



(From left to right) Mrs Heather Du Quesnay (ESF Chief Executive Officer), Mr Bill Garnett (Peak School Principal), Mrs Annette Ainsworth (Peak School Vice Principal), Mrs Sue Ko (Peak School parent & formal Peak School Council Chair 1998-02), Mrs Maureen Walsh (Peak School parent).

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS BY ESF SCHOOLS



ESF Students will be performing in different locations around town this Dec. Please check out the details on this webpage:

www.esf.edu.hk/christmas-concerts

DISCOVERY COLLEGE

Discovery College (DC) is offering a Scholarship Programme to students entering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in the 2012-2013 academic year. According to Brian McCann, Diploma Coordinator, the programme at DC is a self-contained, two-year course which provides the best possible



preparation for further study. A full range of subjects will be included to maximise student choice and cater for a wide variety of interests and talents. Academic scholarships are open to students who show a range of advanced analytical, critical and creative thinking skills essential to achieving success in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme. Scholarship candidates should show evidence of participation in rigorous learning and enrichment experiences

both within and beyond the classroom.

Applications are being accepted from students across Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories for entry into the Discovery College Diploma Programme for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Scholarship applications and more information regarding Discovery College, and the Diploma Programme can be found online at www.discovery.edu.hk.

ISLAND SCHOOL

The Island School Christmas Fair, an annual event which is the most important one in the PTA calendar, will be held on 3 December. The funds raised from this event will go towards improving the school environment for all Island School students as well as to the Nicola Myers Kenneth McBride Memorial Fund which was set up 26 years ago in support of local secondary school students in Hong Kong in memory of two Island School students who lost their lives in tragic circumstances.

More details are available at www.island.edu.hk/sites/island/files/Fair_leaflet_for_parents2011.pdf



KING GEORGE V SCHOOL



The KGV Night Market will be held on Friday 9th December as part of our Christmas Carol Concert & Fair event. It promises to be a great night for students, parents, staff and alumni with a variety of international food stalls, student games stalls, Christmas gift stalls, singing and of course mulled wine. We invite you all to put this date in your diaries and come back to KGV!

The Fair will run from 5pm to 9pm and the Carol Concert on the school field from 7pm. Please remember there is no parking on site.

Any enquiries, please contact:
Ruth Barnes
Community Development Manager
Tel: 2760 6681
Email: ruth.barnes@kgv.edu.hk

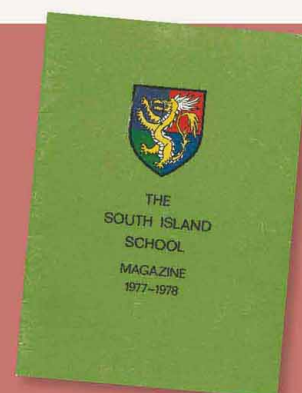
SHA TIN COLLEGE

The official Sha Tin College alumni website, www.alumni.shatincollege.edu.hk, will be up and running by Spring 2012. If you wish to contact the Sha Tin College Alumni Committee, please email to shatin-college-alumni-committee@googlegroups.com.

SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL

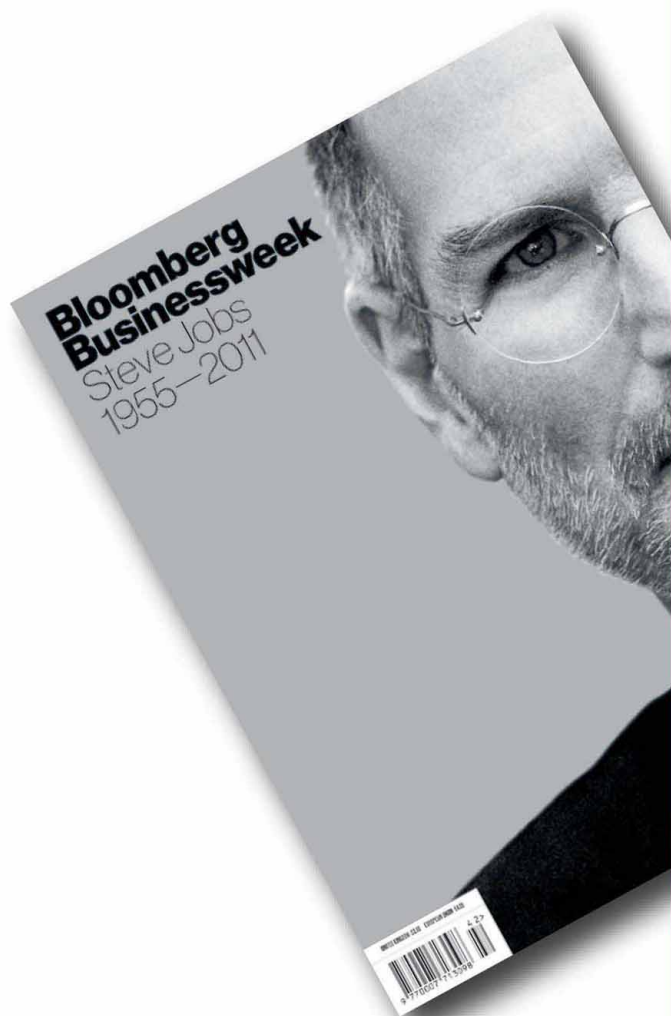
The Online Year Book is now available for viewing on the Alumni Website <http://alumni.sis.edu.hk>, which is a communication platform for all SIS alumni, current and ex-staff. Sign in and refresh your good old days' memories! The Online Year Book is available for registered Alumni members only.

Please contact Esa Lau, Communications Officer via saps@mail.sis.edu.hk if you are planning a school visit or have other enquiries regarding the alumni association. The school also welcomes enthusiastic members to join their Alumni Committee to organise activities for the community.





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