

# YEAR FIVE *bulletin*



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2011/2012

## ✧ *Current Unit of Inquiry: EXPLORATION*

**Central Idea: Exploration leads to discovery and develops new understanding.**

### Important Dates

#### **December 16**

Last day of school before Winter Holiday

#### **January 3**

School resumes

#### **January 11**

Student reports sent to families

#### **January 20**

Chinese Assembly

#### **January 21-31**

Chinese New Year Holiday

#### **January 31**

Deadline for entries to HKYWA Contest

#### **February 18**

Oliver Performance

#### **An Inquiry Into:**

- Reasons for exploration
- What we learn through exploration

**Subject Focus:** Social Studies, Mathematics

**Concepts:** We will be inquiring into the causes and perspectives of exploration.

#### **The main attitudes and learner profiles in this unit:**

Students will have many opportunities to practice being risk takers, inquirers and open minded. They will be encouraged to use curiosity, independence, confidence and commitment throughout their inquiries.

#### **Language:**

During unit 3 year 5 students will be mainly focusing on using a range of reference materials with increasing independence and responsibility. They will learn when and how to use a variety of resources for research, identify relevant, reliable and useful information and decide on appropriate ways to use it. Students will write effective reports by improving their note-taking skills and learning to organise information into paragraphs which can then be written in to their own words. Students will also be given opportunities to argue persuasively and justify points of view by discussing the impact of exploration from multiple perspectives.

# Mathematics within the unit:

Following the Christmas holiday, students will begin planning their own personal exploration within Hong Kong. They will be investigating public transport timetables and schedules (eg. bus, MTR, ferry) to help them plan a personal journey schedule. They will also be expected to work out the time and distance they have to travel, weight of their bags and plan a budget for the day's exploration, all of which require them to use a variety of mathematics skills: estimation of distance, time and weight; conversion of units of measurement (eg. metres-kilometres, grams-kilograms); addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of money. Students will also analyze angles by comparing and describing rotations (eg 90, 180, 270, 360 degrees) in relation to a specific location on a map.

## Support at home:

During the holiday, if you are going on family outings, please encourage your child to estimate the distance and time taken to travel from home to your destination. When using public transport, encourage your child to take a look at the route and timetable to work out an estimated time of arrival and departure. If you are planning to take a flight to a holiday destination, encourage your child to explore and compare flight schedules. When eating out or buying groceries, challenge your child to estimate the cost of the total purchase or the weight of some items. If possible, please encourage them to explain to you the strategies they use for estimating the total amount. You could further challenge them to estimate the sum of all items on a receipt or even calculate change from a large bill payment without using a calculator!



## Multiplication and Division

Year 5 classes will soon begin a new inquiry into a variety of mental and written strategies for multiplying and dividing 2 and 3-digit numbers. Students will be encouraged to select an efficient method and apply their understanding to solve word problems and real life problems. If your child is having trouble with multiplication facts, give short (five minute) reviews at home, concentrating on facts he or she finds difficult. It would very helpful to have your child practice division by solving problems in everyday situations as described above. Encourage them to explain to you the various multiplication and division strategies they have learned at school and how or why they chose their preferred method.

x	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100



## Hoi Ha Wan Exploration

As a part of our unit, students were required to plan and carry out their own exploration during the Year 5 camp at Hoi Ha Wan. This was a fantastic opportunity for children to show their independence by leading their group to somewhere unfamiliar, using mapping skills,

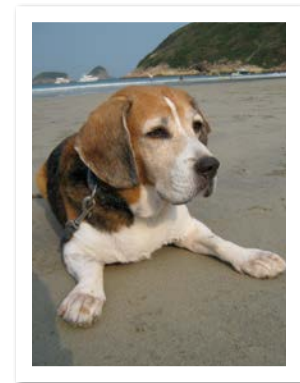
organisation and time management. At camp students participated in a variety of challenging team building and social activities which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped make this amazing learning experience possible!

### MEMORIES OF MEDIA NIGHT



[www.hkywa.com](http://www.hkywa.com)

Are you dreaming of being an explorer on the high seas or deep in the forests? Year 5 students are encouraged to enter this year's narrative writing contest among English medium schools in Hong Kong. This year's theme is "New Tales of the Yangtze River" - a great link to our current unit of inquiry!



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Year 5 team would like to wish all students, families and pets a well earned break.

We hope you all have a healthy and relaxing holiday together.