A Thankful Heart - Ms Tam May Ling

I usually listen to the radio on my way home and watch TV news during dinner time. Most of the news, unfortunately, reports the dark side of society and makes us feel that we are living in a terrible place. Although I agree that our society has much room for improvement, I advise that young people not be overwhelmed by less desirable situations and not allow worries to steal our joy.

We should realize that there is no utopia in this world but there are always beautiful things and people that are worthy of our attention. I am always amazed by the wonder of God’s creation. For example, I often admire the colourful plants while standing in our playground during morning assembly. Have you ever observed the perfect blend of different shades of green in nature? The old leaves seamlessly tone in with the new ones on the same tree!

Like this seemingly insignificant observation, all “little” things can surprise us if we take notice of them. What about the similar “little” things in our life? We should treasure the often unnoticed things that our parents do for us, such as waking us up in the morning or reminding us to take an umbrella to school on rainy days. Don’t take our customary felicity for granted! They are free of charge yet priceless! All we need is a thankful heart to appreciate them and to feel blissful and blessed.
The end of this experience has almost arrived. The time flew by and I can’t believe that this exchange year is almost finished.

After 8 months in Hong Kong, I can claim that my life has really changed. In the first few months, I felt I was in a totally new reality. But now everything feels normal. It is strange having a new life in another country, in another culture and with new people, but I think this exchange year has been very useful. Even school is now much better for me and I feel good in class because my classmates are really nice.

I love Hong Kong life, the food, basically everything; and I will miss these amazing days spent with my friends. I completely fell in love with Hong Kong and I think I couldn’t have made a better choice to come here.

I would like to stay longer and to spend more time with my friends in Hong Kong but this is not possible. I have just a month and a few days left and I will be on that plane going back home.

Hong Kong has now also become my home and it will be difficult leaving these fantastic people behind. I will take with me all of the things I learnt and some people will stay in my heart forever.

I’m sure I will come back on holiday maybe after my graduation and I can’t wait for that moment!

Finally, I would like to say thank you to this school that hosted me this year and I am really glad to have been an LKT student these months.

Aurora Chillotti (4B)
First of all, I love our school campus. It’s quiet and peaceful. It’s not crowded. Secondly, I love my school because the students and teachers are very polite and helpful. They are always willing to help me. Most students always try to speak with me but some students cannot speak English fluently enough so they simply speak words or short sentences. I try my best to understand them and most of the time I do. It’s the same with me as well. If I don’t know how to speak or explain myself in Cantonese, I ask my friends to help me. I am not a shy guy so I make friends easily.

One of the things I don’t like about LKT is that there are many rules and I feel like there isn’t much freedom. Students must have freedom or else they won’t pay attention and won’t like coming to school. For example, we should be able to go to the toilets when we need to and if we are thirsty, we should be able to drink whenever we want to. It may seem not to be polite to teachers but our health should come first, right?

So yeah, this is my life at LKT!

Mangil Ghale (2D)

Studying at Lo Kon Ting is very enjoyable to me because the teachers and students are very helpful. I am a non-Chinese student, so it is a bit hard for me to speak and write Chinese at the same level as the other students. If I don’t understand something, my friends explain it to me.

I feel very blessed and grateful to be able to study in this school and to have very helpful teachers, and students as friends.

Ankit Thapa (1A)
After studying one and a half years at LKT, I think LKT is a very nice school. I think so because the teachers and students are nice to me. The security guard also greets me every morning.

I have also learnt a lot of interesting things and gained knowledge. However, I think there are some things our school needs to improve.

I think our school gives students too much homework. I think LKT should give us less homework so that our school bags aren't so heavy.  

Moheen Ali (2D)

Studying at LKT is great. All the teachers are professional and the students are geniuses.

I like studying here because I am able to have a lot of fun with my friends and learn a lot at the same time. My classmates are very helpful. For instance, Isaac, my neighbor, always helps me when I have questions. I have a lot of questions in Maths, Chinese and with translations too. I really appreciate Isaac’s help.

LKT is a great school and everyone is well behaved. I enjoy studying here very much.

Ukesh Gurung (2D)

I really like this school because the teachers are caring, the students are friendly and the school campus is clean. Although there aren't many non-Chinese students in LKT, I still enjoy school here.

LKT is great and I don't have much trouble with Chinese. This school is the best and I am glad that I'm a student here.

Devansh Gandhi (1C)
Our Non-Chinese Friends

‘Wow! This school looks good! I hope I like it!’ I still remember saying this to myself on my first day at Lo Kon Ting Memorial College.

Though the first day of school was a tough one, with a whole new environment and new people that I’d never met before, and I was kind of scared, I made it through smoothly enough.

I was hopeful and as days passed by, I started to make new Chinese friends, which I expected of myself anyway. The teachers are kind, especially my class teacher, Ms Ho. She is the best. She helps me a lot. I really like her.

Now, I am happy in this school. And I hope my coming years in LKT will be as bright as my first year.

Muskan Khan (1A)

My life in secondary school is a lot harder than it was in primary school but the LKT teachers care about us.

Secondary school work is very difficult but meaningful. I have fun at LKT through many activities. I haven’t had any problems with my after school activities, but the exams are hard. I didn’t do too well in my last exam. I hope I do better in the next exam.

Coming to this school made me realise how much more important studying is than ever before. I like this school and hope to study hard here in all the coming years.

Shubham Thapa (1A)
Our English Corner

Our English Corner is a very good place to learn English. It’s a place where I can play and relax, practice my English oral skills as well as learn new vocabulary.

Through some very interesting stories and some games, I learnt some new things and became more skilled at English. Of course, speaking with a NET helped improve my oral and listening skills.

The atmosphere in the English Corner is relaxed and, at the same time, happy.

It is one of my greatest pleasures going to the English Corner and having lessons with Mr Baldoo.

The English Corner is a place where we can learn English in a fun way. This year, we read short stories, watched videos and played games to learn English. We practiced our reading skills by thinking about the main ideas in the many different short stories. We practiced our listening skills by watching videos. We practiced our writing skills by writing letters. We practiced our speaking skills by reading poems.

I think our English Corner is one of the best places in school. I learned many things there, for example, new vocabulary such as ‘grab your attention’. Besides, I have made some new friends there. They are Coby and Bobo from 1D.

Attending English Corner sessions advanced my vocabulary, especially when I was with the form 5 students. Of all the activities, I liked the group discussions the most because I had a chance to express my opinion on things and was able to learn from others' opinions. Also, attending English Corner sessions made me speak English more fluently. I hope I will be able to continue attending the English Corner sessions next year, if at all possible.

Chan Sze Yin, Eunice (1A)

Lau Wing Yan, Melody (1A)
I was in form three when I first took part in a debate. It was hard for me, as I was nervous about speaking in front of people. I didn’t perform well. The experience made me feel frustrated. I wanted to quit.

But I didn’t.

Maybe somewhere deep in my consciousness, I had already known that I was going to fall in love with it, so I stayed on. Later on, the English Debating ‘Club’ became the English Debating Team. We participated in our first competition which was also the first competition for LKT. I was not a participating debater in the first round competition. So I made an effort to prepare for the mock debate because I had still not reconciled myself to debating. Eventually I became confident and now I’m a regular.

Do you know what debating entails? It requires you to predict what your opponent will say and prepare ways to attack it. You have to organize your words within a few seconds. And you have to arm yourself with confidence, even though you don’t always know what to say. I love to see a battle of ideas, and it’s so different from a quarrel. Debating is orderly. What you have to say, how long you have to say it; these are fixed for you. All you need to do is follow the rules and express your ideas.

Thanks to all the members in the mock debate who provided us with so many good ideas; and thanks to our teachers, Miss Choi and Miss Ng, who stayed with us till very late to help us.

The history of LKT English Debating Team has only just begun. We’ve made a good start. But I believe it’s just a beginning. We will win more competitions. Someday, everyone will hear about LKT in English Debating in Hong Kong. Anyone who wants to join the ‘club’ and help write the history of our English Debating Team, please feel free to see Miss Choi or Miss Ng in G10.

Today’s motion is ‘that LKT English Debating Team will last forever’. I hope all of you will stand on the side of the Affirmative, together with us :)  

Ip Suet Ying, Kenneth (4D)
Dear humans,

I hope that you stop killing my friends and my family for our fur. We are at your mercy every day. We lose our homes and even our lives. We are all willing to share this planet with you and other animals but please stop hunting us and destroying our habitats. Otherwise, we won't have the chance to live together on Earth. I don't want to see my family members being killed anymore. Please help decrease the rate of our extinction!

Sincerely,
Snow Leopard representative

Leung Kwan Yin, Kobe (1D)

Dear humans,

I am a representative of the snow leopards. I'm asking that you stop endangering our species!

We have been decreasing in number rapidly and it's all your fault!

You keep polluting our habitat along with other animals' habitats. This is causing a large scale panic and crisis around here. Also, a man called Dave Baldoo is killing a terrifying number of animals for 'sport'. It would be great if you could stop this crazy man. I don't want to see more of us dying, so I want you to solve this problem quickly.

If this keeps going on, we snow leopards will go on a rampage through cities and villages, until our demand is responded to. I hope we can come to an agreement regarding this matter.

Lastly, we are an endangered species. We shouldn't even be hunted in the first place. I ask all of you, what is it you want so badly that you would wipe us off the face of the Earth?

Goodbye, and think long and hard about this problem.

Sincerely,
A Leopard

Law Yik Kay, Michelle (2D)
An Open Letter To Humans

Dear Mr. Baldoo,

Stop killing my species. Stop polluting the environment. Stop being so stupid. And stop killing my prey. I can’t describe in words how much I hate you. You are a devil! You are not only polluting the environment but also killing my prey, which is against the laws of nature.

Sooner or later, my whole species could become extinct. But don’t think it’s none of your business. My extinction would lead to various serious problems, such as causing serious damage to ecosystems. Such actions would result in damage to you humans yourselves. None of the species in the food chains will get out of this. Your actions will eventually lead you towards extinction.

So once again, I’m going to ask you to stop whatever you are doing which causes great damage to us and the environment. Doomsday is coming and you are still doing things which will accelerate your demise. Apply the emergency brake on the damage to the environment. Please cooperate.

Sincerely,

The representative of the polar bears. Ting Hoi Wah, Johnson (1A)

Dear Mr. Baldoo,

I hate you! Why did you kill my baby? If we are big, that doesn’t mean we are ugly or stupid. We are also living creatures like you, we have emotions and most importantly we are part of the world. You don’t have the right to kill us! I hope you hear my words and stop killing us.

And, I am not just talking about elephants. I also mean that you shouldn’t kill any animals at all. When you come back to Africa, please remember that you shouldn’t kill us!

Sincerely,

African Elephant Muskan Khan (1A)
An Open Letter To Humans

Dear representative of humans, Mr Baldoo,

I've discovered that you've already hunted down 8 rhinos, some elephants and several sharks. Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop!

I'm afraid you will kill off my species. Please, please don't kill us! We are penguins, cute and funny.

And please tell all humans not to kill us.

Moreover, don't misuse electricity. Generating electricity produces carbon dioxide which damages our habitat by making global warming worse. The ice in Antarctica will all soon melt away.

As a reminder, please tell all the people from all around the world to please be kind to us. From now on, switch off electrical appliances that you are not using.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,
Penguin Villager

Mao Chun Wah, Kenneth (1B)

Dear humans,

I hate you so much! Why do you kill my family? Why can’t you stop killing animals? You have killed many animals; some of them are endangered animals. If you keep killing us, some of us will become endangered or even extinct in future. Please stop killing us; we are so helpless. Why do you love to kill animals? I don’t understand. We are so cute and beautiful.

Sincerely,
Giant Panda

Chan Sze Yin, Eunice (1A)
Are there any Potter-heads out there? A new movie, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, is coming out this November. This movie is based on J.K. Rowling’s book of the same title, which is a spin-off and a prequel of the *Harry Potter* film series. The screenplay for this fantasy drama film was also written by J. K. Rowling.

The movie is set in the United States of America in 1926. It is about Newt Scamander (played by Eddie Redmayne, I love him!) who arrives at the Magical Congress of the United States of America for a meeting with an important official. Also at this meeting is a magically expanded briefcase which is home to a number of dangerous creatures and their habitats.

When the creatures escape from the briefcase, the fun begins! The American wizarding authorities go after Newt. The state of magical and non-magical relations are strained. The mistake creates chaos in New York City’s community of wizards and witches. The fanatical New Salem Philanthropic Society adds to the intrigue. They are an extremist organization bent on eradicating wizard-kind. Newt battles to correct the mistake. In the process, we see the horrors of an increase in violence, fear, and tension between magical and non-magical peoples.

If this movie interests you, be sure to watch it at a cinema in November this year. See you there 'cos I’ll be there for sure!!!

*Lau Pui Ying, Madeline (4D)*
You can make a difference!

William Shakespeare is the greatest writer ever.
His work has been shot and staged more times than anybody would care to count.
He is the nightmare of students everywhere.
His plays are the most widely known in history.

William Shakespeare has inspired lots of films in Hollywood, Bollywood, and beyond.

**Western films:**
- West Side Story - *Romeo and Juliet*
- Kiss Me, Kate - *The Taming of the Shrew*
- Forbidden Planet - *The Tempest*
- My Own Private Idaho - *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*
- Gnomeo and Juliet - *Romeo and Juliet*
- Looking for Richard - *Richard III*

**Bollywood:**
- Omkara, Maqbool, Haider - *Othello, Macbeth, Hamlet*
- Goliyon Ki Rasleela: Ram-Leela - *Romeo and Juliet*

**Japan:**
- Throne of Blood - *Macbeth*
- Ran - *King Lear*