Hello, everyone. Welcome back to LKT English Buzz. This is already our third edition this academic year. This edition focuses mainly on pop culture all around the world.

This edition contains interviews with foreigner teachers from Global Awareness Week. We have also given our S1 students an opportunity to tell us about the Reading Tree in their classrooms. It also contains results from the two biggest awards shows, The Grammys and The Oscars. Over and above that, we are sharing a movie and some sad news too.

Pop culture is an important aspect of the English Exams in the HKDSE. If you understand pop culture well, you are already taking one big step towards success in the DSE exams. More than that, some aspects of pop culture such as music and movies can actually help us release stress that we encounter in our daily life.

We hope you will find this edition enjoyable to read and that it helps you relax a bit.

The Editors :)

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Global Awareness Week

At Global Awareness Week this year, we interviewed some foreigner teachers. They all had some special impressions to share on Hong Kong, their own countries and also on us and our school.

By LAM SZE WAI, Victoria (4D) and LAU PUI YING, Madeline (4D)

JONATHAN (from ENGLAND)

I love my home country very much. I like the history and architecture in London. There are many villages in London. Every village and every building has their own long history and some of them have been built more than 500 years ago. The architecture of the houses are special and many of them are in Gothic style.

I like your school. I think that local school students are still very innocent.

In your school I learnt and understood more about the "real" Hong Kong.

TILL (from GERMANY)

Till has come to our school on three occasions so far. He said that we are nice and it would be better if we spoke up because we should practice more even if we have broken English.

Every year in Germany, the biggest event is the beer festival. At the end of September until the beginning of October, a beer festival is held in Munich, which is a large city in Germany. The beer festival usually is held for 2 weeks. People drink a variety of beers and chat with each other. It’s just like a party. People you know or do not know get together and chat, and sing and dance happily. This event is full of joy and you can relax.
Gustav thinks that Hong Kong as an international city has lots of different kinds of foods from different countries. He likes the food in Hong Kong because he thinks that the chefs in Hong Kong bring out the real flavours of the different kinds of food. He likes the Indian food in Tsim Sha Tsui the most since the restaurants serve authentic Indian food.

In Sweden, 22nd June is the longest day in the whole year. On that day, the sun sets later than usual. Even at 9pm, there is sunshine everywhere and the sky and the sun are still very bright, too. People usually have picnics, play music and dance with others on that day. I often stay at home with my family in the early morning and go to a barbecue with my friends at the beach in the evening until the following day.

This was the first time that Gustav came to our school. He strongly encourages us to ask more questions if we do not understand. Also, he said that we should speak up and we ought to speak more English to improve our confidence in English. He hopes all of us become more talkative and less quiet.

I've been in Hong Kong for 3 years. Compared to Hong Kong, my home country, Sweden, is more peaceful, much larger and is cleaner but I love both places.

I like travelling. Once I had been to Belgium and I saw that many people throw eggs on graduate students. The students do not get angry but really enjoy the event. This is one of the special events in Belgium that celebrates student graduations. I think this kind of celebration is much more interesting than just wearing a gown and going to a graduation dinner. I liked this unique and unforgettable event.
Global Awareness Week

JAY (from SINGAPORE)

Jay loves our school and students because they are nice and kind. However, he thinks that we are too shy and afraid to talk with him. He encourages all of us to be confident and speak more English with each other.

AKI (from NIGERIA)

Nigeria is also a multi-cultural country. It has 300 races and 150 languages. There are different religions, festivals, backgrounds and customs but the majority of the people like playing football. Football is the national sport of Nigeria. Everyone loves playing football and this is the connection between the variety of race groups.

I love Singapore very much because Singapore is a multi-cultural country. Basically, it includes Malay, Chinese and Indian cultures and each of the cultures has its own special cuisine, so there are different kinds of foods for you to choose from.

Nigeria is the biggest economic and trading country in Africa as Nigeria has a wealthy supply of oil. Many people who live in Nigeria are quite rich, so, in fact, not all Africans are poor and homeless.
Form 1 Reading Tree

What comes to mind when you hear the words Reading Tree? Is it a tree for you to read? Is it a magical tree that can read? Or is it something that can do crazy things? Either way bad things didn't come to our minds when we heard the words Reading Tree.

By Lau Wing Yan, Melody (1A)

I think the Reading Tree is very helpful for our learning of English because sometimes we don't know what to read, and maybe it will even make someone feel interested in reading English books! I believe that many students have been encouraged to read English books thanks to the Reading Tree. The more leaves there are in the tree, the more beautiful it is. Reading books is a very good way of learning. We hope the Reading Tree fills your mind with inspiration, discipline and wonderful knowledge like The Tree of Knowledge is.

This year, our school introduced a new learning idea called the Reading Tree. It is a handmade tree which was designed by our classmates. It is pinned up on our classroom notice board. Every term, every student is responsible for writing out at least one leaf. Students have to write the title of some really good books, for example, I wrote down Paper Towns by John Green, and I recommended it to our classmates.
The Oscars 2016

Do you guys enjoy watching movies? If you do, which types of movies do you go for? Is it Sci-Fi, Action, Comedy or perhaps the award-winning ones?

The 88th Academy Awards (The Oscars) took place on 28th February 2016, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. Every year, this awards show is a big event for actors, directors and other movie artists, as it is one of the greatest honours to win.

By LAU PUI YING, Madeline (4D)

This year, Leonardo DiCaprio finally won his first award for his role in The Revenant after being nominated six times.

For a lot of people, it felt surreal that Leonardo won this award considering the number of times he lost to others.

For best actress this year, we have Brie Larson for her role in Room with her emotionally gut-wrenching performance.

Alongside the best actor and best actress awards, the best picture award is of great interest too. All the nominated movies are of high quality, and yes, it was a difficult decision to choose the best movie.

The award went to Spotlight which is a biographical drama directed by Tom McCarthy and written by McCarthy and Josh Singer about an investigation into cases of widespread and systemic child sex abuse in the Boston area by numerous Roman Catholic priests.
The Oscars 2016

Although the Oscars is a day for actors, actresses, directors to shine, what was special about this year’s Oscars ceremony is that we saw a lot of controversy. And the controversy had to do with race.

Many actors such as Will Smith boycotted the ceremony as black actors weren’t nominated two years in a row for the best actor or supporting actor awards. It seems racial discrimination is still a huge challenge in the US.

Comedian Chris Rock hosted the Oscars this year. He dwelled on the theme of a lack of diversity in Hollywood and the Oscars. But Chris Rock himself was accused of perpetuating racial stereotypes. He introduced three Asian kids on stage and even gave one a Jewish name.

It seems the world has a long way to go before we all can have equal opportunities. Also, America as one of the largest country in the world, it should take the lead where people are not defined according to race or ethnicity.
Hello guys. The movie we want to share is Star Wars: The Force Awakens which is about the war between the Resistance and The First Order. The First Order is actually the remains of the Galactic Empire. They always wanted to rule the galaxy.

In the movie, there is a super power called 'The Force.' It can help an alien forecast and light up The Lightsaber. However, this power has two forms, the dark side and the light side. The people who use these powers are called the Sith and the Jedi.

In our opinion, this movie is definitely incredible. First of all, the story is exciting and fast-paced. The lifelike special effects are very impressive. Also, the soundtrack is amazing and it matches the movie perfectly. The Death of Han Solo is the most unforgettable part in the whole movie because he is our favourite character. At first, he was a tricky and selfish person, but thirty years later he turns out to be a responsible and gentle guy. We can’t believe that he was murdered by his own son, Kylo Ren.

By So Nok Yin, Linus (2D),
Tsui Brandon (2D)
Wong Yurt Fung, Ivan (2D)
On 14th January 2016, beloved actor Alan Rickman passed away. He had been suffering from cancer for a long time. It was indeed sad news for us as we lost a great actor.

His most famous performance was acting as Professor Snapes in the *Harry Potter* movies. In the series, he showed his excellent acting skills by playing his role perfectly.

After Alan Rickman's death, the *Harry Potter* cast paid a moving tribute of their love for him. Daniel Radcliffe, who played Harry Potter, released a tribute on social media about his feelings upon hearing of Rickman's death. He said that no other adult actor or actress had ever treated him the way Alan did when he was young. He expressed his heartfelt sympathies for Alan Rickman’s family.

Let's pray for this amazing actor. Rest in peace.

*By LAU PUI YING, Madeline (4D)*

Here is the tribute Daniel Radcliffe posted on the social media:

Alan Rickman is undoubtedly one of the greatest actors I will ever work with. He is also, one of the loyalest and most supportive people I’ve ever met in the film industry. He was so encouraging of me both on set and in the years post-Potter. I’m pretty sure he came and saw everything I ever did on stage both in London and New York. He didn’t have to do that. I know other people who’ve been friends with him for much much longer than I have and they all say "if you call Alan, it doesn’t matter where in the world he is or how busy he is with what he’s doing, he’ll get back to you within a day”.

People create perceptions of actors based on the parts they played so it might surprise some people to learn that contrary to some of the sterner (or downright scary) characters he played, Alan was extremely kind, generous, self-deprecating and funny. And certain things obviously became even funnier when delivered in his unmistakable double-bass.

As an actor he was one of the first of the adults on Potter to treat me like a peer rather than a child. Working with him at such a formative age was incredibly important and I will carry the lessons he taught me for the rest of my life and career. Film sets and theatre stages are all far poorer for the loss of this great actor and man.
The Grammys 2016

The 58th Grammy Awards was held on 16th February, 2016. Many famous singers won various awards and their songs are great! I hope there will be many other fantastic and fabulous songs featured next year and we enjoy all of them.

By LAU PUI YING, Madeline (4D) and LAM SZE WAI, Victoria (4D)

Record of the Year:
Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars,

Song of the Year:
Ed Sheeran, “Thinking Out Loud”

Best New Artist:
Meghan Trainor

Album of the Year:
Taylor Swift, 1989
Here's an opportunity for you to get involved in LKT English Buzz! Why not give this a try! Write down on a piece of paper answers to the following questions and give it to the editors of LKT English Buzz. You have a chance to win a wonderful prize if your answers are creative and fun.

**Question 1:** If you could be a superhero with superpowers, what would you choose to be. Why?

**Question 2:** If you had to eat only one food for the rest of your life, what would it be? Why?

**Question 3:** If you could be in any one fictitious world, what would yours be. Why?
Did U Know?

Ewoks speak Tibetan. The Ewok language is a combination of Tibetan and Nepalese.

Chewbacca’s voice is an eclectic mix of other animals. Chewbacca’s voice is a mix of bears, walruses, lions, badgers and other dying animals.

The sound of a TIE fighter engine is actually an elephant. The sound of a TIE Fighter engine was created by combining an elephant bellow and a car driving on wet pavement.

The lightsaber noise comes from the familiar hum of an old television. The noise a lightsaber makes is created by combining the hum of an old television’s picture tube and the buzz of a film projector’s motor.

http://mashable.com/2014/04/17/star-wars-facts/#a1LWI2ZjekqK