

Leapfrog Newsletter

June 2011

www.leapfrogkindergarten.org



Summer Kindergarten & Playgroup

Kindergarten - "Synthetic Phonics and Numeracy"

For unaccompanied children aged 3-6 years (Children must be already attending a Kindergarten program)

July 4th - July 22nd 2011, Monday - Friday, 9.00am-12.00pm

\$1,500 per child per week, \$2,800 for 2 siblings

Led by our Principal Louise Heap

Registration must be done in advance. Application form from the office or available on our website.

Playgroup - "Fun in the Sun"

Children aged 1-6 years old. All children must be accompanied by a parent or helper

July 4th-July 22nd 2011, Monday - Friday, 9.00am-11.00am

\$120 per child, \$200 per family (up to 3 kids)

Come and play in our beautiful playground and classroom - paint, sand, water, messy stuff, toys, bikes, cars, slides and a fun circle time!

No need to register—just come along and pay on the day!

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 6th public holiday no school
- June 30th last day of school

Break-up parties:

Kindergarten:

Thursday, June 30th from 11am-1pm
(all Kindergarten children)

Hoppers:

Wednesday 29th June

9-11am (all Hoppers and Super 2s welcome)

Wednesday pm Playgroup:

Wednesday 29th June 2-4pm

Tadpoles:

Thursday June 30th 9-11am

- July 4th-22nd Leapfrog summer program
- Tuesday, August 23rd first day of school - autumn term 2011

End of Leapfrog School Year Parties

Kindergarten

This year we will have a combined party for both Kindergarten classes as our K2 class is still very small (next year we will split up the classes for our end of term parties) and as usual we will ask parents to bring snacks for the party. The party will be from 11am to 1pm. This will be in place of normal morning and afternoon sessions so all children, parents/guardians please arrive at 11am on Thursday, 30th of June.

Playgroup

There will be 3 Playgroup parties for the various groups:

HOPPERS WED 29th JUNE, between 9am-11am as usual. All Hoppers and Super 2s welcome.

WED pm Playgroup WED 29th JUNE, between 2pm and 4pm as usual.

TADPOLES THUR 30th JUNE, between 9am-11am as usual. All Tadpoles welcome.

For children attending Super 2s ONLY, please come along to the Hoppers Party if you can make it!





Successful Sponsored Walk 2011!

Many thanks to everyone who came and made this year's event such a huge success on such a lovely sunny day. To date we have raised **HK\$ 28,376** which is a fantastic amount (compared to \$18,000 last year) and we will use it to buy more classroom supplies for the Kindergarten and Playgroup.

Many people offered their time either before the event to help set up, or during the day, selling food and drinks, manning the BBQ, selling raffle tickets or face painting. Thanks to you all.

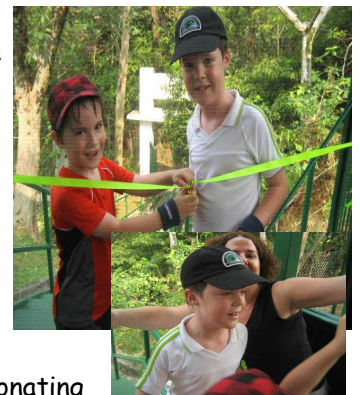
Special thanks also goes to:

*James at **Winerack** for the wine at a fantastic price,

*the Gregory family of **Faust** and Rachael Footer of **Rachael's Funhouse** for donating the fabulous Auction items

***Woolworths HK** for the donation of a huge amount of wonderful toys to our school at around the same time.

Thank you everyone—it was a fantastic afternoon!



The Cottons came in first, even though they had already done the walk earlier that morning to put out the flags!. Mum overwhelmed and so proud of her boys!

Congratulations!

Playgroup

The playgroup has been very successful during the past school year. All classes have been almost always full, and the children and parents/guardians have had lots of fun with Mary Ann. This year we finalized Leapfrog's Curriculum for the Playgroup. The Curriculum is actually a definition of learning areas and collection of objectives based on the British Curriculum. All the arts and craft projects, stories and discussions are then based on the themes that we are working on each term. Further details are to found on our web site.



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New Playgroup Leader

As some of you may know, Miss Mary Ann is leaving us at the end of June. Her shoes will be difficult to fill but we are delighted to announce that Pam Spencer will be taking over the role from August 2011. Pam is a very experienced Kindergarten and Play-group teacher and we know you will all make her feel welcome!

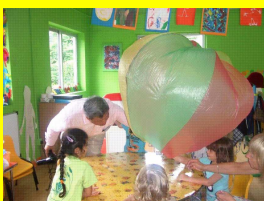
We would like to use this opportunity to thank Mary Ann for her contribution to Leapfrog for the past ten years. **Good luck Miss Mary Ann with your new exciting projects.**

Kindergarten School Year



A Review of the Academic Year 2010-2011 at Leapfrog Kindergarten,

by Louise Heap



It was very exciting to return to school at the end of August 2010 with our new programme of K2 classes for four-year-old children in the mornings and K1 classes for three year olds in the afternoons already in place. This arrangement meant that we were able to plan sessions that more specifically met the needs, abilities and interests of each of our pupils.



The children settled into their new routine very quickly and happily, benefiting from a carefully balanced day which included purposeful Circle and Table Times incorporating structured numeracy, literacy and creative activities in conjunction with significant blocks of time allocated specifically for 'free play', both in and out of the classroom.



jectives for each age group may be found on the 'Leapfrog' website.) In late January, we also acknowledged the importance of the culture of the country in which we all live by undertaking two weeks of experiences related to the 'Chinese New Year'. Arts,



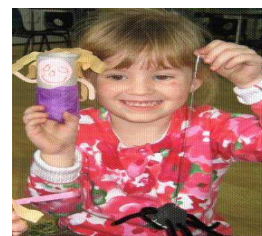
crafts, stories, rhymes and songs serve to reinforce and extend each of these Themes.

We were also delighted to see the children developing these ideas themselves. So much valuable cooperative role-play occurred in our 'Class Supermarket', for example, that we left this in operation for a full week longer than we had originally intended. Later in the academic year, the creation of a Puppet Theatre combined with a 'Puppet Making Week', (using socks, gloves, wooden spoons and cardboard shapes - you provided it, and we made a puppet out of it!), was the source of much imaginative interaction between the children. They were able to re-enact and re-draft familiar stories such as 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', whilst also making up many of their own plays and scenarios, effec-

tively extending both their vocabulary and their performance and presentation skills.

Our language development has been further aided by the introduction of daily 'Get Reading Right' sessions. This has been more of a formal arrangement in K2, where the children have now covered every letter of the alphabet and some blends in which two letters join together to make one sound, such as 'sh'. Word Bingo and sound matching games have served to reinforce their learning, and they can also write many 3, 4 and 5 letter words independently and accurately using the grapheme frames. This experience has been an excellent preparation for Primary School, and will give the children genuine confidence when they start in August.

Meanwhile, K1 have had a regular but much less formal introduction to the first 16 letters and 12 'camera'



words identified in the scheme, which in turn, will be excellent preparation for the K2 class that many of them will soon be joining.



Our planned 'Themes' last anything from a day to a month, and include such topics as 'Colour, Shape and Sound' and 'Water' (Full details, including aims and ob-

Kindergarten School Year



The daily numeracy work has been largely practical-based, and was linked very closely with the U.K. E.Y.F.S. We have been counting,



matching numbers, grouping and ordering various items according to a range of criteria, and measuring everything in sight, including our own bodies, hands and feet. We have undertaken simple calculations, (both adding and subtracting), and have identified a range of two and three-dimensional shapes. This material was successfully reinforced with an entire week of number-based activities during February.

Some of our learning has taken place outside the regular confines of the

classroom. We visited 'Lion's Nature Park' and Sai Kung Fire Station, and after Christmas many of us were lucky enough to watch a live performance of 'The Gruffalo' at the Drama Theatre in the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

A Science Day, arranged for K2 saw the class absorbed in experiments involving investigating the properties of air and water, whilst our newly introduced 'Science Table', currently largely featuring mirrors and magnets, has proved popular with both age groups. A designated children's 'Office' area has been similarly successful.

In April, we welcomed two work experience students for a week. It is always great to have additional assistance in the classroom, and many of our parents have been committed to

helping in the classroom on a more regular basis throughout the year. Such interaction is valuable in that it helps to enrich the children's experience of the world around them, and for this, we are always most grateful.

It has certainly been a busy and eventful year. Our numbers are growing steadily, and we are already planning more interesting and exciting ideas for your children in the year to come. It looks like the 2011-2012 season will be even more action-packed than ever. We sincerely hope that you will all stay and share it with us.

Louise Heap





Early Kindergarten Leavers

We already know that some children will be leaving Hong Kong earlier than 30th June. If this is the case with you, please let us have an 'official' last date of attendance. Likewise, if you will be late returning after the summer break (after August 23rd), it would be great to know this, with a specific return date if possible. This all serves to help us with our planning and preparation. Have a great holiday everyone, and thank you.

Leapfrog School Year 2011-2012

The office will be closed in July and until August 8th. If you need to contact the school please leave your name and number on our voicemail or email. All emails will be checked but not every day so please don't expect immediate responses.

As stated above the Kindergarten is almost full for next year, but we do still have a couple of spaces in our K1 group.

If you, or anyone you know is interested in a K1 place starting autumn 2011, please complete an application form (available from the office or on our website) and mail to P.O. Box 121, Sai Kung. All applications will be dealt by order of receipt.

Our new autumn term starts on Tuesday August 23rd—our calendar for next year is available on the website. However, if your child is new to K1, they may not start on this day as we will be "staggering" the start for these children. Your child may be starting on the Wednesday, rather than the Tuesday. This will be confirmed by email the week before school starts so keep an eye on your in-box!

Summer is coming..

and with that the harsh sun rays that can do so much damage to our skin!

☀️ Leapfrog Kids are SunSmart Kids! ☀️



SLIP
on a t-shirt



SLOP
on sunscreen



SLAP
on a hat



Please make sure your child has a suitable hat for outdoor play, and apply sunscreen (spf 30) before coming to Leapfrog each morning or afternoon

Spare Clothes

Please remember the children will need plenty of spare clothes in the summer months as there will be lots of water involved as the temperature soars!

Leapfrog Kindergarten and Playgroup

School Registration No. 564770

No 11 Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung Country Park.
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