

LOCAL SCHOOLS PROJECT

ESF Educational Services' local schools project, now called Active English, has expanded rapidly. We helped 23 schools this year, many of them through voluntary work (see 'Voluntary work in local schools' section). The schools are throughout Hong Kong, from Lo Wu to Lantau Island and Tuen Mun to Choi Hung.

ACTIVE ENGLISH

The vast majority of schools we work in use Chinese as their medium of instruction.

We now have two full-time English language teachers at Ho Yat Tung Primary School in Tuen Mun, Kay Beadman and Renee Beaton. They co-teach classes and help with extra-curricular activities. We will also help the school with their English website and self-access reading materials.

In keeping with the Active English approach, our secondary courses have included teaching football & English with a Nigerian coach, Lawrence Akandu, a radio play about a day in Island School, a fashion show with clothes made out of SCMP newspapers, designing a poster for our sports classes and playing a Survivor style game, though no students were eliminated. We will continue to offer students opportunities to learn English related to activities that interest them.

Many thanks to all the teachers, assistants and volunteers that have helped us this year.

If you or your school would like help with voluntary projects in local schools, please contact Graham Young.

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Voluntary Work in Local Schools

These are just some of the ways that the ESF is working with local students.

Beacon Hill School in Lo Wu

A total of 20 ESF staff, chiefly from Beacon Hill School, spent Saturday mornings teaching English in a village school in Lo Wu. Each week, 4-6 staff volunteers trekked into this restricted zone of China using special permits. Some staff brought their own children to help. The 45 students involved came from three village schools, Lo Wu Public School, Wah Shan Public School and Sam Wo Public School. Around 70% of the students live in Shenzhen and cross the border every school day.

The programme used practical activities, including puppet stories, drama, sport, origami, singing and cooking to promote use of English. The students also spent a day at Beacon Hill School, integrating into classes. Everyone concerned, both students and staff, found this a rewarding and memorable experience and we will continue the project next year.

South Island School in Yau Matei

Over thirty South Island School students, mainly from Year 12, spent six Saturday mornings helping run 'Fun English Days' at Yau Matei Catholic Primary School. Activities included being travel agents, quizmasters and auctioneers, running food stalls, breakdancing, dodgeball, aerobics and dancing to the Grease soundtrack. The local students had a great time and the SIS students learnt a lot about leadership and the joys of teaching. Thanks to Diane Bohm.

Buddhist Tai Hung College students in Island School

Sixteen students from a secondary school in Cheung Sha Wan spent a day in Year 9 classes at Island School. They integrated well and would like to come back next year. Thanks to David James, Chris Windle and all Year 9 teachers.

Sha Tin College students in Tai Po and Yau Yat Chuen

Six Year 12 Sha Tin College students taught lower secondary students English and sport. Though the students were challenging, the Sha Tin College students motivated them to speak English and play basketball or volleyball. Thanks to Susan Tonin.



ESF INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTENS

Our aim is to provide a stimulating environment that is happy, secure and trusting where young children will learn, through play, the social and intellectual skills that will prepare them successfully for entry into primary school.

The planned activities are guided by the Foundation Curriculum of the United Kingdom. The curriculum develops communication, language and literacy, mathematics, knowledge and understanding about the world, personal, social and emotional skills as well as creative and physical skills. Both kindergartens are open-planned providing sessions where the children are able to engage, for some of the time, in open play activities and then in circle times where small groups gather for focus activities across the curriculum. Special cultural celebrations are planned into the term programme and parents are encouraged to take part in these celebrations. Outings into the local community occur as part of the themes that are introduced each term.

Sheung Wan kindergarten has been in operation since January 1999. It has four classes operating morning and afternoon sessions for children 3 to 5 years of age. The kindergarten employs a principal, four teachers, a Mandarin teacher, 8 educational assistants, 2 administrators and 2 cleaning staff. A bus service brings children to the kindergarten from all over Hong Kong Island.

Tsing Yi kindergarten has been in operation since September 1999. It has provision for eight classes to operate at a morning and afternoon session for children 3 to 5 years of age. The kindergarten presently employs a principal, 8 teachers, a Mandarin teacher, 16 educational assistants, 2 administrators and 3 cleaning staff. There is provision for both indoor and outdoor play and the kindergarten is conveniently located at an MTR station. Buses also bring the children from all over Kowloon and the New Territories.

Liz Randall



KINDERGARTENS



KINDERGARTEN CONTACTS

SHEUNG WAN swkinder@esf.edu.hk
1/F and M/F Tung Fai Gardens
17 Po Yan Street, Sheung Wan. HK

Principal:

Ms Jeni Fieldhouse

Teaching Staff:

Ms Sarah Chappell (Deputy Principal)

Ms Daisy Man

Mrs Kate Ringrose

Ms Lindsey Gray

Ms Faith Fei (Mandarin Teacher)

For registration information:

Administrator: Sue Neilson

Tel: 2540 0066 Fax: 2517 0923

TSING YI tykinder@esf.edu.hk
Maritime Square,
33 Tsing King Road, Tsing Yi

Principal:

Mrs Liz Randall

Teaching Staff:

Ms Karen-Lee Singleton (Deputy Principal)

Mrs Susan Calton

Mrs Pam Rushton

Ms Katrielle Stephens

Mrs Edith Fung

Ms Katie Newton

Ms Marianne Frakjaer-Jensen

Ms Rebecca Richardson

Ms Lynn Xu (Mandarin Teacher)

For registration information:

Administrators: Yvonne Lo and Joey Leung

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