

EAL Update

Term 4 – Update 4, 18 June 2009

Dear parents,

EAL Lessons

Students participating in the intensive EAL program are continuing to improve their ability to communicate in English. Each year level are currently working on various learning areas, as outlined below:

- JiHo from Year 1 is learning new weather vocabulary and reading related books. He has recently completed a weather report using PowerPoint, including video snapshots of JiHo presenting his weather report.
- Year 2 students are revising a range of different text types and playing a variety of English language games.
- Sodai and JeongHan from Year 3 have recently finished researching different habitats. They compared the characteristics of forest and lake habitats in a Venn diagram and then created a PowerPoint presentation with their findings.
- Helen, JinSeong, Sean and Manaka from Years 5, 6 and 7 are currently working on using different reading strategies to understand fiction texts. They are writing book reports and making oral presentations. The students are using video to provide feedback and improve their performances.

Of course, our After School EAL Program is continuing to run. Students are enjoying a range of activities and games that require them to communicate in English. Please note that this program will conclude on Wednesday 24 June.

EAL Reports

This semester, there will be an EAL section included in the formal academic report. This section of the report will be included for all students who participate in the intensive EAL program with myself, supported by the teaching assistants. The report will provide a description of the focus learning areas covered in EAL as well as a description of your child's strengths shown during EAL lessons. The report concludes with some suggestions for improvements. If you have any questions about your child's EAL report, please don't hesitate to come and see me.

EtonHouse EAL Policy

Collaboration between the EtonHouse China schools is continuing to occur to review the current EAL practices in each school. A draft EAL policy has been written and is currently being discussed and revised. Stay tuned for its release early next year!

Until next time, keep enjoying and supporting your child's efforts to learn English!

Anna Davidson

EAL Co-ordinator

Handy EAL Hints

My child is becoming familiar with English, how can I help?

- Talk about English language books in your home language.
- Encourage your child to read books from school to you, then tell the story in your home language.
- Encourage your child to make up stories from pictures.
- Encourage your child to tell you in your home language what he or she is learning at school.
- Review English vocabulary and school work with your child.
- Encourage your child to share new words, rhymes, and songs learned at school.
- Help your child read English informational texts (such as store signs, road signs, labels, menus and instructions).
- Encourage your child to watch some television programs in English that are of educational value.
- Provide your child with tapes, videos and CDs of stories in English. If possible, have versions in both English and your home language.
- Provide your child with interactive computer games in English.
- Provide your child with a tape recorder to record songs and stories learned at school.
- Encourage your child to invite English speaking children over to play.
- Praise your child's attempts to speak in English and do not worry if the child makes mistakes. The focus should be on building confidence and communicating meaning.

(from 'Developmental Continuums: A Framework for Literacy Instruction and Assessment K-8' by Bonnie Campbell Hill, 2001)

EAL Photos

Enjoy this selection of photos from recent Year 2 EAL lessons.

